First Call for Children

'The essential needs of children should be given priority in bad times as well as good' — *Plan of Action, World Summit for Children*

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End of an era: James P. Grant (1922-1995)

James P. Grant, the former Executive Director of UNICEF, died of cancer on 28 January 1995 at Northern Westchester Hospital Center, Mount Kisco, New York.

Mr. Grant assumed office as the third Executive Director of UNICEF with the rank of Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations on 1 January 1980. He resigned on 23 January this year because of ill health. Dr. Richard Jolly, Deputy Executive Director for Programmes, will continue as Acting Executive Director until a new Executive Director is appointed.

In his letter of resignation to the Secretary-General, just days before his death, Mr. Grant said: "Serving as UNICEF's Executive Director for 15 years has been the greatest privilege of my life — the capstone of my 50 years of international service."

In his statement following Mr. Grant's death, United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said, "Very few men or women ever have the opportunity to do as much good in the world as James Grant; and very few have ever grasped that opportunity with such complete and dedicated commitment. He will be remembered as a most distinguished servant of the United Nations and as one of the greatest international public servants of his generation."

During his 15-year tenure as head of UNICEF, Mr. Grant was acclaimed for his unflagging commitment, vision and dedication to improving the lives of the world's least advantaged — the children of the developing world. Under his leadership, UNICEF confronted and decried what Mr. Grant called "the silent emergency" — the daily tragedy of millions of children caught in the relentless downward spiral of poverty, pollution and environmental degradation. Each year these conditions cause the deaths of millions and result in many more stunted lives. At the same time, during Mr. Grant's term, UNICEF also responded to the "loud" emergencies and worked to save the lives of women and children caught in disasters, including earthquakes, famine and war.

During his 15-year tenure as Executive Director of UNICEF, the late James P. Grant showed an unflagging commitment, vision and dedication to improving the lives of the world's children. Here, he shares a book with a child in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire).

In the 1980s, UNICEF launched the Child Survival and Development Revolution, which to date has saved the lives of an estimated 25 million children and prevented disabilities in many more. Its success was predicated on Mr. Grant's unique strategy to emphasize simple, low-cost and practical methods for child welfare — like immunization, oral rehydration and breastfeeding — and to inspire a worldwide movement to bring these remedies to the millions of children and mothers threatened by preventable disease and malnutrition.

The 1990 World Summit for Children — the first meeting of its kind where world leaders met to address social and child survival issues — stands out as one of the main highlights of his career. The Summit set 27 child health and welfare goals that have been incorporated into the national plans of more than 100 countries.

Mr. Grant's strategy of setting specific, measurable goals, lobbying tirelessly for their achievement, and monitoring and publicizing progress towards them, has been remarkably effective. In the decade and a half he spent as the Executive Director of UNICEF, he met with more than 100 Heads of State or Government to enlist their personal and political support for the achievement of specific goals for children.

Responding to Mr. Grant's resignation, United States President Bill Clinton said, "I am writing to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your service to America, to UNICEF and most of all to the children of the world. You have set a permanent standard for energetic and committed global leadership. You can count on us to help sustain the momentum you have given UNICEF and to work as you have always done for a more just and caring world."

Another milestone in Mr. Grant's career was the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child — a Magna Carta for children. The Convention recognized, for the first time, economic and social as well as political rights of all children and is today the most widely ratified human rights treaty ever.

In 1994, Mr. Grant received the Presidential Medal of Freedom — the highest civilian honour conferred by the President of the United States — "for his compassion and courage in his crusade for the world's children and his tireless efforts to alleviate suffering around the world." This was one of many awards Mr. Grant has received for his distinguished service and contribution to human progress and development.

Mr. Grant began his career in 1946 with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in China. His early experiences in China, and the pioneering work in international public health of his father, Dr. John B. Grant, remained a lifelong influence. In particular, he based his efforts for children on the belief that medical advances do not reach the poor majority by any automatic process of diffusion, but must be made available by conscious and sustained efforts.

The value of James Grant's leadership of UNICEF over the past 15 years is immeasurable. Everyone who knew him sensed his vision; but everyone who worked with him also recognized an even rarer quality — the ability to translate that vision into practical action, often against great odds and on a massive scale, by inspiring many thousands of individuals and organizations to sustained action on behalf of children in every country of the world.

In his farewell letter to the staff of UNICEF, Mr. Grant asked us to embrace the challenges that lie ahead. "As I leave the helm, I am conscious of the many tasks and challenges still ahead," he wrote. "I know I can rely on your energies and commitments to carry forward UNICEF's mission to achieve the mid-decade and year 2000 goals and help build in every country a better future."

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Honouring former UNICEF Executive Director

The first 1995 meeting of the UNICEF Executive Board paid tribute to the late James P. Grant. Speaking on behalf of the UNICEF National Committees was Robert Smith, Executive Director of the United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF. Excerpts from his speech follow.

All members of Jim's wider family of what are now 38 National Committees for UNICEF have been inspired over the past 15 years by Jim Grant's brilliant leadership, his visionary, missionary style, his extraordinary public relations and political skills, his optimism, his pragmatism. Who else can one name who has so combined being not just a dreamer (and what a dreamer) but a doer as well?

We in the National Committees shall sorely miss you... We owe it to you and to children to see that your hopes and dreams, the world's goals for children, are realized in the years ahead.

Educating for good health in Viet Nam

By June Kunugi

Those who knew five-year-old Doan Quynh Chi three years ago can hardly recognize him now. "In 1992, when he was diagnosed by district health workers as severely malnourished, he was only skin and bones," says his mother, Le Thi Ngo. "He was small when he was born, but at the time I didn't know that he was underweight because he was born at home and wasn't weighed."

Today, Doan Quynh Chi's cheeks and legs are soft and plump, like those of healthy children. His mother is largely responsible for his good health, but she admits that she wouldn't have known how to help her son without the information she received from the Provincial Women's Union. A few months after Doan Quynh Chi's diagnosis, the Union started an intensive door-to-door campaign to increase mothers' knowledge of health and child-care principles and to motivate them to put them into practice.

The initiative included the distribution of *Facts for Life*, the booklet jointly produced by UNICEF, WHO, UNESCO and UNFPA, translated into Vietnamese and five ethnic minority languages. It contains information on child health, nutrition, education, and water and sanitation.

"At first I wasn't interested in reading it," says Le Thi Ngo, confessing that she has minimal arithmetic, reading and writing skills. "But then my friends in the Women's Union told me how interesting it was, so I pushed myself to try reading it. I especially liked the chapters on food hygiene, child nutrition and breastfeeding. Because of *Facts for Life*, I breastfed my daughter for 18 months." She pauses and turning to her son adds, "I wish I had had the information sooner."

In order to help mothers put into practice what they learn, the Provincial Women's Union, with the assistance of UNICEF, began providing mothers with US$30 loans. In May 1993, Le Thi Ngo received her loan which she used to buy two piglets, five laying hens and maize for feeding the pigs.

The loan enabled her to quit her job as a *cuu van* — a porter carrying beer and other commodities over the Chinese-Vietnamese border — and work at home to take care of her children and family. She also expanded her vegetable garden on the side of a steep hill near her small house.

Almost a year later, her family's health has improved significantly. They are now eating the eggs from the hens, and fish and chicken that Le Thi Ngo bought with her profits from selling the piglets. She has also purchased a peach tree and buys and resells commodities such as firewood.

"I like having so much time to spend at home, taking care of my children and our garden," says Le Thi Ngo. "Right now I'm growing beans for soup. My family likes my soup a lot," she says with pride.

June Kunugi is Assistant Information Officer, UNICEF Hanoi.

Senegal on the road to Beijing in 1995

At the fifth regional preparatory conference for the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing in September, hundreds of women from across the African continent gathered to prepare in Senegal (Dakar) from 13 to 23 November. Sylviane Diouf-Kamara spoke to PROFESSOR NDIORO NDIAYE, M.D., the Senegalese Minister of the Woman, Child and Family, about the challenges facing not only Senegalese women but all African women today.

UNICEF/2065/Murray-Lee

Nearly 80 per cent of economically active women in sub-Saharan Africa work in agriculture. Here, a women waters her garden in Guinea.

What are your hopes for Senegal for the Beijing Women's Conference?
I cannot dissociate Senegal from the rest of Africa. Our country under the leadership of its President is deeply involved in African integration and in the sharing of our resources and intelligentsia. So my hopes are for the continent as a whole.

I wish Africa could give its populations the means to resolve their poverty problem. Poverty is a mental state — the state of a mind opposed to change. But it is also an economic problem, and I would like to see the women and men of Africa create wealth, be rich and not be ashamed because they would not have stolen it.

Is this a reference to the fact that the international community has accused some Africans of becoming rich by plundering the aid programmes that should have gone to the needy?
Today, because of all the negativity that has been directed towards Africans and our governments, most aid donors demand that our development partners channel their funds through NGOs instead of having them go directly to governments.

But we now see the flip side of that coin. Some of these structures are getting richer and richer while the amount of money devoted to the programmes in the field is dwindling. This is exactly what everybody denounced when it was done by the governments.

If a government is honest, then we do not need these intermediaries who take a big share of the budgets. Aid donors, NGOs and governments must sit down and talk and put their cards on the table. We women must address this issue in Beijing and actively participate in the management of our countries. Once our voices are heard there, we can better support our governments.

And in the political arena?
Africa is going to Beijing, free at last. But we are still plagued by fratricidal fights. Some countries are still torn apart.

Africa has to create a Network of Women for Peace, which would exert its influence on the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) during peace negotiations, so that the women's perspective will always be taken into account. This network would be made up of women of exceptional stature — women who have been party leaders, government leaders, heads of women's associations, women who have taken part in the liberation struggles of their countries. Moreover, these women would give back to Africa the experiences they have acquired so that in the 21st century, the young women who will follow us in a position of leadership will be prepared, since they will have a solid wealth of knowledge and experience at their disposal.

What are your objectives for Senegalese women?
To create a mechanism that will monitor all programmes for women developed by all the ministries. We have done the research on women and we have the statistics. Those indicators now have to be disseminated to all levels of planning so that no decision can be made in any ministry without taking into account the woman's dimension. We hope to achieve this objective within the next five years.

We are also investing in the fight against poverty. Our goal is to put together programmes that would create financial resources for women. This is what freedom means. You cannot be free as long as you depend financially on your husband, your family and friends, your system. Women must be able to create wealth, to earn money in order to choose, to choose their life. You cannot choose if you don't have anything.

What is the most important achievement of Senegalese women in the past 10 years?
The awareness that women have of their strength. There is no doubt about it and this is wonderful. The women in Senegal know that they can profoundly influence any government policy and make their voices heard. This is a reality and this is a source of great pride.

Sylviane Diouf-Kamara is a freelance writer based in New York.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Pennies from Heaven: Every year, as an estimated 317 million people take international airline flights, an increasing number of them are putting their coins and small bills to good use as part of a fund-raising campaign called 'Change for Good'.

Started in 1987, Change for Good has grown tremendously, and today, Committees for UNICEF in Australia, Japan, Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada have engaged, respectively, QANTAS (since 1991), JAL (1989), Cathay Pacific (1991), Asiana (1994), British Airways (1994), TWA (1994) and Canadian Airlines (1994) to undertake Change for Good programmes.

On participating flights, an in-flight video featuring a celebrity spokesperson explains how the programme works and asks passengers to place their foreign coins and notes in special envelopes carried in headset packs or distributed with the in-flight meal. The cabin crews then collect the envelopes, which are transported to a local bank or coin-counting facility for sorting and deposit into a Committee for UNICEF account.

The fund-raising implications are enormous. For example, US$2 in spare change deposited by a passenger could buy 20 packets of oral rehydration salts to treat dehydration caused by diarrhoea or 200 tablets of cotrimoxazole to treat 10 children suffering from acute respiratory infections. As of mid-1994, collections on QANTAS Airlines had totalled US$746,300; Cathay Pacific Airlines had raised US$531,400; and British Airways US$750,000.

The Amazon: Cleaning up for the future

Students learn to grow lettuce, tomatoes and onions between classes as part of an environmental education programme at a primary school in the Amazon city, Rio Branco.

By Alexia Lewnes

Soda bottles, mayonnaise jars and beer cans spill to the ground when the door of the outdoor wooden shed at the Senator Adalberto Sena State School is pried open. Enthusiastically, the students separate the trash, systematically tossing plastic, aluminium and glass into three separate piles. The recyclable material, collected from the neighbourhood twice each month in a horse-drawn cart, is dropped at the school, sorted and then sold to local recycling centres. The proceeds are deposited into a bank account to support other school activities.

The recycling project, developed in 1991 by S.O.S. Amazonia, a local non-governmental organization (NGO), is part of an environmental education programme designed to clean up Bairro Tucuma, a neighbourhood in the Amazon city of Rio Branco, in the state of Acre (Brazil). "Before the project began, all green areas in the community were covered with trash," says Miguel Scarcello, coordinator of the project. "Our strategy was to solve the garbage problem by motivating the community through the local school."

The nearly 850 students of this primary school have discovered that in nature, nothing is wasted and everything is transformed. In each classroom, two trash cans stand side by side, clearly labelled — one for paper, the other for cans, bottles and plastic. Each week students take turns shredding, moulding and drying the discarded paper in the school's on-site recycling workshop. The scraps are brought back to life and recycled into useful materials including notebooks, writing pads and cards.

"Since the project began, it's easier to get students to clean up after themselves, and as a result the school itself is much cleaner," says Vilma Soares, the school's principal. "Parents are also pleased because garbage no longer accumulates in their homes." Letters explaining the principles of recycling have been sent to the parents, along with a calendar which highlights the recycling days.

Nurturing nature

Behind the classrooms, students take turns watering the lettuce, tomatoes and onions in the school vegetable garden. In the adjacent nursery, pepper and papaya seedlings are beginning to take root, protected by plastic sacks, once used to hold milk. Students learn to prepare the soil and grow saplings that are later sold to the community or planted by the children on the school grounds.

At this school, children are taught that their survival and development depend on the preservation of the environment and that their behaviour is critical to its conservation. An environmental theme is incorporated into all of the classes and, along with social studies, Portuguese and math, students discuss the importance of nature and its conservation, the preservation of water sources, as well as the damaging effects of pollution and deforestation. Field trips to a local plastic recycling centre and a tree nursery show them practical alternatives for improving their environment.

"The project is successful because the entire school is participating," says Mr. Scarcello. Not only teachers but administrators, secretaries and custodial workers attend an annual 20-40 hour training course provided by S.O.S. Amazonia. The course defines and explores environmental issues and the practical application of recycling and conservation projects. Since 1991, 36 teachers and 44 administrative and service personnel have participated in these courses.

Community gets involved

While students have learned to respect and nurture nature, the community as well has been motivated to improve its environmental conditions. The streets are noticeably cleaner since the project began, and plastic and glass bottles, tin cans and jars, once tossed onto the ground by local residents, are now set aside to be collected. The Mayor of Rio Branco has supported the project from the beginning, and as a result city hall provides the horse and cart for trash collection and sells the recyclable material for the school.

The improvements in the neighbourhood and in the school have prompted a desire among other communities to improve environmental conditions in their area, and consequently, the environmental education programme is being incorporated into three additional local schools.

Alexia Lewnes is a consultant writer/editor, UNICEF New York.

A collaborative effort among NGOs

Across the Brazilian state of Acre, NGOs both large and small are working tirelessly to improve the health, education, economic and environmental conditions of the people. While they have traditionally worked independently, with UNICEF support, a group of 20 NGOs have recently united to form a coalition with a singular objective — to improve the situation of women and children in the state by helping them to realize their full citizen's rights through the sustainable utilization of resources.

For the first time in this region, local NGOs are networking, developing their organizational capacities and participating in the demanding process of collaboration and cooperation. Their programme is comprehensive and includes projects ranging from the training of health agents in remote forest communities and the production of materials for indigenous schools, to the promotion of sustainable management through farming and agroforestry projects.

While the coalition is designed, through the exchange of experiences and expertise, to strengthen NGOs both individually and collectively, it also enables UNICEF to develop a comprehensive series of activities that aim to secure the rights of women and children. As part of the project, UNICEF is also uniting local mayors and is promoting partnerships between NGOs, governmental organizations and businesses to ensure that children and the environment are placed high on the state's political agenda.

Broadcasting the message

A new daily five-minute radio programme, *Children: The Future of the Amazon*, produced by National Amazon Radio, is one of many projects designed to improve the standard of living for women and children in isolated communities in the Amazon.

National Amazon Radio, which broadcasts on shortwave from Brasilia, is the only radio station that covers the entire Amazon region and is for many rural communities the principal means of contact with the outside world.

Using correspondents from the Amazon region, the programme provides an ideal forum for disseminating important information about children's rights and for promoting an exchange of community experiences.

The programme is a result of UNICEF's Training Programme for Radio Broadcasters, which has not only raised awareness of issues involving children and the environment nationally but has also led to the establishment of three NGO-produced radio programmes on local stations that focus on these issues.

Future generations at risk

The exploitation of the Amazon has had high economic, social and environmental costs, denying many citizens their right to a clean and healthy environment.

Over the last few decades, national development policies have squandered both financial and natural resources and have failed to meet national or local development needs.

The social costs, in particular, have been enormous, and women and children have been the main victims.

Failed development schemes have impoverished rather than enriched the residents of the Amazon, urban slums which house the underemployed have proliferated, and more than 500 gold-fields have stripped natural vegetation and poisoned the rivers, while workers have enslaved adolescent girls as prostitutes.

Children are frequently undernourished because their food supply has been disrupted by the building of dams or by deforestation and the adoption of 'modern' agricultural methods that have depleted the soil.

A recent UNICEF-sponsored survey on the situation of children in the Brazilian Amazon revealed:

- Despite the dearth of official data for the non-urban areas of the Amazon, there is considerable reason to suspect that infant and child mortality rates in the Amazon are among the highest in Brazil.

- Child growth rates in the state of Pará are among the lowest in Brazil, and the city of Belém has by far the lowest per capita consumption of milk of any Brazilian city.

- Fewer children receive elementary education in the Amazon region than anywhere else in Brazil. Throughout the state of Acre, only 7 per cent of the children who start school conclude the elementary cycle of eight years, while in the rural areas the figure is 2 per cent.

- Malaria, which at one time had been considered under control, has become endemic in various areas. The epidemic can be traced to massive migration driven by poverty and to the destruction of land and forest resources, which creates new breeding opportunities for the malaria-transmitting mosquitoes.

Summit targets children

Heads of State of 34 Western Hemisphere countries gathered in Miami, Florida (USA), for the Summit of the Americas (9-11 December 1994) and renewed their commitment to eradicating poverty as well as to key health and education goals of the World Summit for Children (WSC).

The Americas' Summit's Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action call for the eradication of poverty and discrimination, stating that "it is politically intolerable and morally unacceptable that some segments of our populations are marginalized and do not share fully in the benefits of growth." The Plan of Action recognizes that nearly half the hemisphere's population still live in poverty. In response, leaders pledged to work to improve access to quality education and primary health care. Two of the 23 initiatives in the Plan of Action address health and education.

The health initiative explicitly renews the WSC pledge to reduce child mortality by one third and maternal mortality by one half. It also endorses the April 1994 Narino Accord, in which all WSC goals and the mid-decade goals for children were endorsed at the ministerial level.

The education initiative goes beyond the WSC goal of 80 per cent primary school completion. It calls for 100 per cent primary completion and 75 per cent secondary school completion by the year 2010. Additional commitments include improved professional and teacher training, support to overcome nutritional deficiencies among primary school children and broader participation of parents and the community in educational decision-making.

The Plan of Action also pledges to strengthen the role of women and addresses the rights of women, minority groups, indigenous people, the disabled, migrant workers and their families and children. Additionally, governments pledge to "...undertake all measures necessary to guarantee the rights of children, and where they have not already done so, give serous consideration to ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child."

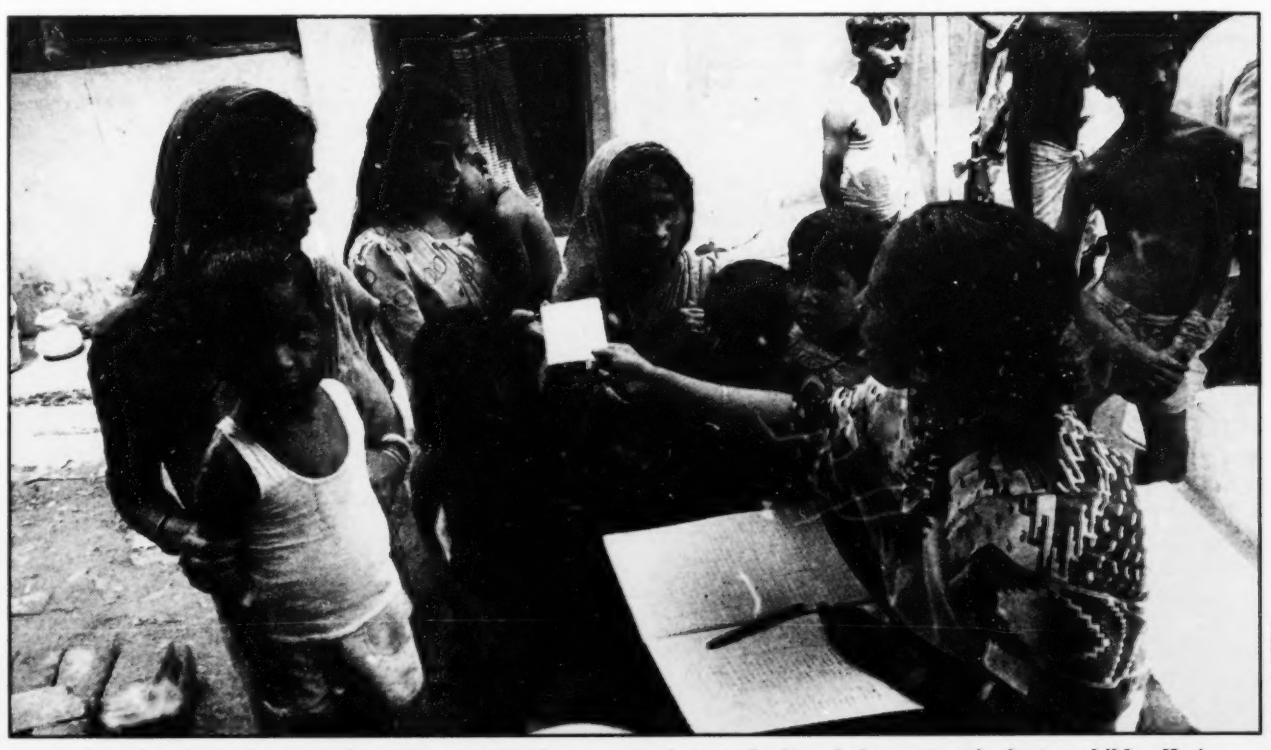
Symposium on children

At a Symposium for 21 Spouses of Heads of State, hosted by United States First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, UNICEF's eight-minute video, *The Promise*, was shown and received much praise. *The Promise*, especially prepared for the Summit, highlights the progress made in the region in health and education since the World Summit for Children as well as the goals that have yet to be reached. Both Mrs. Clinton's opening speech and the speech of Dr. George Alleyne, Director-designate of PAHO (the Pan American Health Organization), referred to the WSC, the Narino Accord and the important advances already achieved in the region — particularly the elimination of polio — before outlining the challenges that confront children and youth of both North and South.

Three working groups, chaired by the first ladies of Chile, Guyana and Mexico, were held to discuss youth, health and education, respectively. Mrs. Teresa Carrasco de Wasmosy of Paraguay invited Mrs. Clinton and the others to the next meeting of Spouses of Heads of State, scheduled for October 1995 in Asunción.

(Excerpted from a report by Robert Ledogar)

Tackling the ORT challenge



UNICEF/91-B0136/Noorani

A solution of oral rehydration salts (ORS) contains the correct mixture of salt and glucose to rehydrate a child suffering from diarrhoea. In Bangladesh, a community counsellor distributes ORS packets and advises on their use.

Diarrhoea kills a child every 10 seconds; six children every minute. Most of these deaths can be prevented with ORT (oral rehydration therapy) — a simple remedy introduced to the international community 25 years ago and described by the British medical journal,* The Lancet, *as "potentially the most important medical advance of the century."

Yet while ORT saves over 1 million lives each year, an additional 3 million children under five years of age continue to die from diarrhoea and dehydration — 90 per cent of them could be saved. Increasing ORT usage has become an uphill battle and one that will require urgent action if the 1995 mid-decade goal of achieving 80 per cent ORT usage is to be met. ALEXIA LEWNES reports.

ORT is a simple cost-effective treatment that should be given at home at the first sign of diarrhoea. Yet, around the world, ORT is used in only 43 per cent of cases of diarrhoea in young children. "ORT should be administered for diarrhoea like aspirin is for a headache," says Dr. Monica Sharma, Senior Health Adviser at UNICEF. "But such a global movement hasn't taken off."

Clearly ORT and ORS (oral rehydration salts) save lives and prevent more than 1 million child deaths each year. When more than a quarter of a million Peruvians came down with acute diarrhoea during a cholera epidemic in 1991, fewer than 1 per cent died because 3 million ORS packets were quickly distributed and administered by a national network of community workers trained in ORT use. It was described as possibly the lowest case fatality ratio from a major cholera epidemic in history.

And when cholera ripped through Rwandan refugee camps, ORS played a critical role in reducing the death toll from the disease. So, why is it that the greatest medical breakthrough in history is not being fully exploited?

"Myths about withholding food and liquids from infants have proven difficult to dispel," explained the late James P. Grant, former Executive Director of UNICEF, at the 'Celebrating 25 Years of ORT Conference' in Washington, D.C., in March 1994. "People need to know that children with diarrhoea require a greater volume of fluids and continued intake of food."

Clearly one of the main obstacles is a misunderstanding about diarrhoeal disease and ORT. Oral rehydration therapy prevents dehydration but does not stop diarrhoea. Parents, therefore, often turn to drugs formulated to stop diarrhoea, which are often ineffective and even dangerous.

To trust ORT, mothers have to understand the danger lies not in diarrhoea but from fluid loss and dehydration which kills and kills quickly. While the severity of the diarrhoeal disease may vary, depending upon the type of infection and health of the child, a viral infection such as cholera can kill a healthy child in as little as six hours through dehydration.

An additional obstacle towards achieving widespread ORT use is the fact that diarrhoeal diseases are endemic, especially in developing countries, and in most cases not fatal. Children under five in developing countries experience an average of 3.4 diarrhoeal episodes each year, making it difficult to get parents concerned about every single case.

Too simple, too cheap

Yet convincing mothers of the benefits of ORT is only half the battle. Many doctors and health providers still do not understand ORT's remarkable effectiveness. In this technology-driven society, faith is often placed in complicated solutions rather than in simple remedies. "Even doctors look at ORT as a home remedy compared to the sophistication of IV's," says Dr. Nyi Nyi, Special Adviser to the Executive Director of UNICEF. "A mother is going to trust a doctor, even if she is aware of the benefits of ORT."

Financial interests as well prevent the promotion of ORT. In developing countries, it is usually diarrhoea that first brings babies into contact with health services. The widespread use of ORT and ORS, administered properly at home at 10 US cents a packet, would deny paediatricians and hospitals substantial income and pharmacists a significant loss of sales of antibiotics and antidiarrhoeals.

Even in the United States, diarrhoeal diseases account for 3 million doctors' visits and over 220,000 hospitalizations a year, or almost 10 per cent of all hospitalizations of children under five. The cost per treatment with IV, the standard method of treatment, runs about US$2,300 — the annual cost for not using ORT in the US alone is US$1 billion.

The multinational pharmaceutical industry must also accept its share of responsibility. Antidiarrhoeals have become a big business and continue to be promoted despite the fact that the World Health Organization (WHO) has stated that "most medicines for diarrhoea are either useless or harmful." WHO estimates that in 1993, global sales of over-the-counter diarrhoeals exceeded US$1 billion.

"The continued production and promotion of antidiarrhoeal products that detract from effective and affordable therapy is one of today's biggest public health scandals," according to Andrew Chetley, author of *Problem Drugs*, a publication from Health Action International, which found that more than 8 out of every 10 antidiarrhoeal products on the market in developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America were unsafe and ineffective.

Overcoming obstacles

Broadening ORT use to make it a family habit will depend on a massive mobilization and communication campaign that will teach mothers what dehydration is and how to prevent it, as well as when to refer the child to a health provider. "ORT will be used only if mothers are confident about its effectiveness," says Jon Rohde, UNICEF Representative in India. "We need to position this simple solution as a first-class, scientific treatment, not as a home remedy for the poor."

Changing perceptions about ORT will require strong support from the medical community. Nurses, doctors and pharmacists, as well as village healers — all extremely influential members of the community — must be trained to explain ORT and must prescribe and provide ORS universally as the standard method of treatment for diarrhoea.

"A true global mobilization for ORT has been missing," said Richard Reid, Director of the Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, speaking at the Junior Chamber International (JCI) World Conference in November 1993. "For oral rehydration, the key is the creation of a demand so keen that awareness and practice will propel themselves. This could be the sales challenge of the '90s — selling survival."

ORT success: Strategies for steady progress

Around the world, the media, several international NGOs and other institutions, including religious bodies, medical organizations and professional and business groups at the international, national and local levels, are being mobilized to spread the ORT message.

In many countries, the mass media are playing a crucial role in explaining the benefits of oral rehydration therapy as well as modernizing its image. In India last year, a television campaign conveyed the message by explaining that most modern doctors use oral rehydration salts (ORS) and declared, "If your doctor is modern, then he should be using it, too."

In Mexico, the medical community responded quickly when a televised public service announcement revealed that a vast majority of children who had died from diarrhoeal dehydration had visited a private doctor. A few weeks later, doctors rushed to find out more about ORT and quickly began promoting it to their patients. Today, Mexico boasts an 81 per cent ORT usage rate across the country.

Yet, while mass media has been a powerful tool, political commitment is largely responsible for such success. "Top-level political leadership and multisectoral participation are needed today as never before," says Dr. Richard Jolly, Acting Executive Director of UNICEF. "Ministers of health need to be high-profile activists and advocates for children, working closely with ministers in other sectors and with leading organizations of the private sector to reach the goal."

In Mexico, former President Carlos Salinas de Gortari launched a US$20 million national programme, known as the 'white flag campaign', to make ORT a family habit. In this programme, all parents in a village attend orientation sessions that teach them how to prepare and use ORS, what ORT is and the need for continued feeding, as well as other elements of child care. When all families have a member trained, a white flag is hoisted in the community as an indication that it is fully equipped and oriented to interventions for child survival.

Social mobilization has been critical: national oral rehydration days and child health weeks have helped to spread these basic messages to virtually every village and urban centre in Mexico. Yet the success of the Mexican campaign is largely due to a comprehensive strategy that also includes widespread training of health personnel in case management, including ORT, and has ensured the availability of ORS by flooding communities with the packets.

In Morocco, where diarrhoeal disease and dehydration were the leading killer of children under five in 1992, King Hassan II launched a massive ORT mobilization campaign which has quadrupled the country's ORT use rate within one year. More significant is the fact that severe cases of diarrhoea declined considerably in that same period. Scouts from the World Organization of the Scout Movement have played a significant role in reaching geographically and culturally isolated communities throughout the country and are carrying out ORT promotion in many other countries as well, including Bangladesh, Egypt and Venezuela.

Several other international and national NGOs have also joined in the global mobilization effort to bring ORT to every home. At its 1993 World Congress, the Junior Chamber International made a commitment to actively support the mid-decade goal of 80 per cent ORT usage worldwide.

In Brazil, volunteers from the Child Pastorate of the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops, working in more than 17,000 communities in all 27 states, are making ORT a part of basic health information for families.

And in Egypt, two years after the launch of a successful ORT campaign in 1988, 96 per cent of mothers with young children had heard of ORT and the home usage rate exceeded 70 per cent. When external programme funding and social mobilization activities decreased, however, ORT usage dropped to 34 per cent, indicating the importance of sustained programme support. When efforts were reinstated, the ORT use rates increased.

Around the world, international press organizations as well have seized ORT as an important news topic, and over the past year a number of television networks, including the American Broadcasting Company, the British Broadcasting Corporation and Star Television, have aired stories on ORT.

"A calamity that kills 8,000 people each day or 57,000 persons in a week ought to be of prime and continuing interest to all enlightened and concerned world citizens," says Kul Gautam, Director of the UNICEF Programme Division.

The mid-decade goal is within our reach, if we strive to grab it.

Spreading the message

To help create the global movement needed to reach the goal of 80 per cent use of oral rehydration therapy (ORT) in the treatment of diarrhoeal cases by the end of 1995, the Government of Bangladesh in collaboration with UNICEF hosted the four-day 'ORT Social Mobilization and Media Conference' in Dhaka (30 August – 3 September 1994).

The Conference, designed to mobilize a variety of allies to achieve the ORT target, discussed ways to promote ORT through the media and encouraged participants to identify areas of future mobilization activity. Social mobilization initiatives in Bangladesh were reviewed as well as ORT country experiences in Brazil, Pakistan and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Since the Conference was held, four ORS/ORT workshops for the media are planned for 1995 in Bangladesh. A conference is also planned for producers of oral rehydration salts (ORS) in Latin America in September 1995.

Raising ORT usage in Latin America and the Caribbean

By Olivia Ormezzano

Too many children under five still die in Latin America and the Caribbean. Diarrhoeal dehydration is the second largest killer in the region, ranking just after perinatal causes.

Determined to reduce infant and child mortality and committed to reaching the goals for children, the region is making a major effort to reduce diarrhoea's toll by increasing the use of oral rehydration therapy (ORT). The goal for the end of 1995 is for ORT to be used in 80 per cent of all diarrhoea cases.

The correct use of ORT will have to become widely accepted and endorsed, and the misuse of antidiarrhoeals — like loperamide and diphenoxylate — will have to end if the region is to achieve this goal. Malnutrition must be addressed, because 68 per cent of infant deaths occur in malnourished infants; 23 per cent of those who survive illness remain malnourished.

Dietary intake, household food security, the care of children and women, women's education and literacy are all issues needing attention. So, too, are the questions of access to basic health services and to safe water and sanitation. For example, 20 per cent of the population in the region lack clean water and 38 per cent are without sanitation.

Statistically significant

More than 70 per cent of diarrhoeal deaths in the region occur in Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico. Acute diarrhoea causes 50 per cent of the deaths: 35 per cent are due to persistent diarrhoea and 15 per cent to dysentery. ORT and continued feeding could prevent nearly all the deaths resulting from acute diarrhoea and many of those caused by persistent diarrhoea.

ORT usage rates have risen since the cholera epidemics of the early 1990s, which helped promote ORT and oral rehydration salts (ORS). According to the latest figures for 1993 from the World Health Organization, already eight countries — Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Mexico, Montserrat, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Uruguay and Venezuela — have ORT usage rates over 80 per cent.

Regionwide, ORT usage has climbed from zero in the 1980s to 58 per cent in 1994. The 80 per cent usage target is well within reach for all countries. Four countries — Barbados, Haiti, Jamaica and St. Kitts and Nevis — have the farthest to go, with usage rates of 20 per cent or less.

Strategic moves

Low-cost strategies have been adopted by countries in the region to raise and sustain ORT usage:

1. Advocacy is being used at all social levels to create a national consensus that the death of a child from diarrhoea is morally unacceptable. High-level government institutions support the effort; the mass media are also active; and in Ecuador and Paraguay, the Junior Chamber International is carrying out activities.

2. Information and education campaigns are being targeted to families and communities. Social mobilization activities are important in the region and are taking place in Bolivia and Brazil. Mass media and interpersonal communication have been particularly useful in Barbados and Jamaica. Community ORT centres have been established, especially in the peri-urban and rural areas of El Salvador, Paraguay and Peru.

3. Alliances are being created and strengthened and joint activities better coordinated with the World Health Organization, Pan American Health Organization, United States Agency for International Development and others. Networks of non-governmental and women's organizations are involved in Belize, the Dominican Republic and Paraguay.

4. The production and distribution of ORS is promoted nationally with the cooperation of private enterprises throughout the region. Health ministries are encouraged to set standards for the production of ORS and to ensure that it is included in the list of essential drugs.

In the city of Cuzco (Peru), a woman gives ORS to a young girl.

Ensuring that ORS is distributed in those areas at the highest risk of diarrhoea is essential. Private sector participation is encouraged so ORS can be distributed not only in health centres, but also in supermarkets, shops and open-air markets.

5. Education must continue to reach those responsible for giving ORT, to explain that breastfeeding — or other feeding for older children — must be continued while the child has diarrhoea, and that ORS needs to be mixed in safe water and given in hygienic utensils.

6. Proper case management of diarrhoeal diseases is essential. Health centres and hospitals need to give ORT as the first — and often the only — treatment. Yet in Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Panama, only 35 per cent of infants with diarrhoea are correctly treated with ORT in health facilities. Capacity-building workshops are needed in all health care courses to bring paediatric practices up to date on diarrhoea management.

7. Simultaneously, the other mid-decade goals need to be pursued, especially those related to the decrease of mortality and morbidity, such as immunization against measles, breastfeeding promotion, vitamin A fortification, water and sanitation initiatives, and actions to improve nutrition.

Olivia Ormezzano is Assistant Programme Officer, Health and Nutrition, UNICEF Bogota.

First Call for Children

'The essential needs of children should be given priority in bad times as well as good' — *Plan of Action, World Summit for Children*

Champion for children

James P. Grant

We are still five years away from the dawn of a new century, yet 1995 has marked the end of an era. For the past 15 years, the late James P. Grant led UNICEF to new heights of influence for children around the world. His combined vision, common sense and tenacious perseverance have saved the lives and improved the health and welfare of millions of children worldwide.

His optimism and commitment were often contagious and his tireless leadership mobilized thousands to work on behalf of children — from teachers and community health workers and young people to ministers and Heads of State. As the motivating force behind the World Summit for Children and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, he proved that the international community can make a practical and long-lasting impact on children's lives. More simply, he demonstrated how ideals can become reality. As we say goodbye to James Grant, we hold dear the legacy he has left behind — a legacy that commits all of us to continue the work he began.

Now, as Heads of State and Government meet for the World Summit for Social Development, it is time to take James Grant's vision and follow his lead by continuing to put children first and by taking action that will enable everyone to feel less insecure, less threatened and more dignified.

In this issue of ***First Call for Children***, we identify the challenges facing the Social Summit. We also look at how local communities — from the slums of Karachi to the Amazon in Brazil — are not only improving their own lives but also contributing to a more secure and peaceful world for everyone.

Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has." It may be the end of an era, but with the right vision, the future can look brighter than ever before.

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Modern sanitation for all in Karachi

By Catharine Way

> ***You can't have modern sanitation for the few and medieval sanitation for the many."***
>
> *— Dr. Akhter Hameed Khan*

That simple premise has improved the lives of nearly 1 million people in Karachi, Pakistan's largest city.

Based on that premise, scores of sewage 'rivers' in Karachi have been drained and returned to their intended purpose as streets. People have been able to significantly reduce their spending to treat illness. They have also opened schools, founded cottage industries and adopted family planning.

The premise brought about these dramatic changes because it was the foundation of the Orangi Pilot Project (OPP), a non-governmental organization (NGO) founded in 1980. OPP was started to improve living conditions in Karachi's largest urban squatter settlement.

Like most developing countries, Pakistan is urbanizing rapidly. While 70 per cent of its people currently live in rural areas, it is expected that within 30 years, 70 per cent will live in cities. Most of them will make their homes in squatter towns, or *katchi abadis*.

Orangi is a typical *katchi abadi*. It is not a decaying urban core abandoned to the downtrodden, but a new, dynamic 'suburban' community, developed over the past 25 years by enterprising immigrants who built a neighbourhood for themselves on the edge of Karachi. Orangi, still growing, is currently home to about 1 million working-class people — skilled workers, shopkeepers, clerks — with monthly family incomes averaging around Rs.1,000 (US$33). They work tirelessly to better their lives, pressing their demands through numerous community associations.

In the 1970s, *katchi abadis* were accepted as permanent settlements and the Government provided them with limited services, including roads, electricity and waterlines. But sanitation was lacking, and wastewater flowed directly from the homes to the lanes. The rains inundated the lanes and houses with a mixture of sewage and rainwater, causing outbreaks of diarrhoea, dysentery, typhoid and scabies. People spent large portions of their income on medical care, which depleted family resources. The lack of sanitation also caused waterlogging and salinity, which were eroding the foundations of the homes.

UNICEF 5411/Bourne

Children play beside pipes to be installed as a sewer line to drain an eight-acre cesspool in a *katchi abadi* in Sukkur (Pakistan).

Helping others to help themselves

The Orangi Pilot Project was designed to improve the quality and expand the scope of the community's own efforts to solve these problems. OPP has benefited from the lessons of its visionary but modest founder, Dr. Akhter Hameed Khan. As he puts it, "A happy destiny put me in several pilot projects where, as a researcher, I tried to reach a little beyond what my masters have taught me."

His parents had taught him to value simple living, high thinking and integrity. Dr. Khan put those traits to good use as he embarked on a career that started with the Indian Civil Service during the Raj, later continued with rural development projects in what was then East Pakistan, and eventually led to university teaching in the United States. These varied experiences taught him to respect the wisdom of the working class.

"I have watched them for 13 years with growing admiration. They are masters of the art of survival," he recently wrote about the working people of Orangi. "Guided by their vital instincts, not by starry-eyed ideologues, they are making a harmonious blend of past and present. They are in no danger of being seduced by foreign cultures or robbed of their identity. They are like a strong tree whose roots cling to the soil, while the branches welcome the western winds."

During OPP's first year, the staff and these 'masters of survival' worked closely together to identify Orangi's main needs. They came up with a list of four: sanitation/housing, health, education and employment. Most prominent was the problem of sanitation.

In Karachi, says Dr. Khan, "there were two types of sanitation: medieval sanitation, including bucket latrines and open sewers, for the poor people; and modern sanitation, with flush latrines in the homes and underground sewers in the lanes, for the rich. If you have a medieval level of sanitation, you will have a medieval level of disease."

Over the years, a variety of approaches had been tried to provide some level of sanitation in the *katchi abadis*. But until OPP got involved, no one had questioned the universally accepted notion that the poor have to tolerate antiquated methods of wastewater disposal.

Modern sanitation was the only possible solution in densely populated Orangi, concluded the OPP staff. An impervious layer of shale lies beneath Karachi, so soak pits quickly become waterlogged and are difficult to clean. As a result, says Dr. Khan, 20,000 pit latrines have been abandoned in the city.

The OPP staff also concluded that the cost of building a modern system could be reduced drastically by eliminating overbuilding and bypassing the contract system.

"All construction had been done by government contractors, which involved middlemen and kickbacks," says Dr. Khan. "Contractors would add a margin of 80 per cent to the cost, whereas 20-25 per cent would be sufficient."

Under the strategy designed by OPP, the people would be responsible for construction of the internal system — pour-flush latrines in the homes, sewage lines and manholes in the lanes. The Government would be responsible for the external system — main drains and treatment plants.

To make construction affordable, everything was simplified. For instance, says Perween Rahman, Director of OPP's Research and Training Institute, traditional manholes are square or conical with a thick brick lining. "We simplified the design, made a cylindrical manhole with a three-inch wall instead of a six-inch wall, and reduced the cost from Rs.2,500 to Rs.250-300 per manhole," she says.

OPP provides technical guidance, plans and maps, but not one rupee for construction. The families pay for their own pour-flush latrines and the sewage lines and manholes in the lanes. Each lane chooses a lane manager to buy materials and engage labour.

"We said they were entitled to a fee or commission as lane managers, but they all refused," says Ms. Rahman. "They had a strong feeling of community and wanted to contribute."

Initially, the cost to each family was about Rs.600-Rs.700. Now it runs about Rs.900-Rs.1,000, or approximately a month's income. (Although the Government has obtained a loan to build the treatment plant, construction has not yet begun; as in the rest of Karachi, the trunk lines currently empty into local creeks.)

Improving health

As of August 1994, 85 per cent of Orangi's homes had sanitary latrines feeding into closed, underground sewers. The lanes are dry, even in the rainy season. But, dramatic as these achievements are, they resolved only the community's first problem. Next came health.

"In an area with no sanitation, the people spend six times as much on disease as in an area with sanitation and health education," says Dr. Khan. "So while introducing sanitation, we introduced health."

Eighty 'activist ladies' were selected and supported by OPP to teach their neighbours about hygiene and disease prevention. OPP no longer needs to sponsor the meetings; now the women pay to attend. A 1991 survey found that 85 per cent of the women in Orangi knew the causes and preventive methods of common diseases, compared to less than 10 per cent in a similar *katchi abadi* with no health education.

Lessons about health and hygiene led naturally to discussions of family planning. The 1991 survey found that 54 per cent of Orangi women were using family planning, compared to 7 per cent in the other community.

Now that people are spending much less money to treat diseases that resulted from unhygienic living conditions, they have more to spend on things like education — Orangi's third concern. Half of the community's 509 formal private schools were opened since the project began. By comparison, Orangi has 76 government-run schools.

"The private schools cost more and still the people use them, because they're better than the government schools," says Dr. Khan.

Orangi's literacy rate is 63 per cent, compared to 54 per cent citywide and 37 per cent nationwide. Almost half of the 80,000 children in Orangi's formal schools are girls — in a country with one of the lowest rates of female literacy in the world — and 87 per cent of the schools are coeducational.

With education comes enterprise. The answer to the community's fourth problem — employment — was to establish a self-sustaining revolving loan fund. Since 1987, the Orangi Charitable Trust has lent, without collateral, almost Rs.32 million (about US$1 million) to more than 2,000 small businesses.

The lanes are deceptively still, yet behind the high walls where people live are bustling family-run industries supported by the loans: towel-makers, weavers, metal shops, leather works, shoe-makers, video shops. Wives and husbands labour side by side; the children run in and out, squeezing in a few hours of work before and after school; a few piece-workers come and go as their schedules allow. Loan defaults have amounted to less than 3 per cent of the funds lent since the programme began.

The secret to all this success, says Dr. Khan, is that "the people have been made stronger." With modern sanitation, their lives have dignity. By solving the problem themselves, they gained the confidence to tackle other problems and the knowledge that their efforts would pay.

Orangi's success is beginning to bear fruit elsewhere in Pakistan. UNICEF and the World Bank are replicating the approach in several other cities, and both have appointed OPP as their consultant. NGOs are doing the same elsewhere in Karachi. Both the development experts and the enterprising residents of the country's *katchi abadis* are beginning to learn that the many — not just the few — **can** have modern sanitation. And this is only the first step on the road to development.

Catharine Way is a consultant editor of the UNICEF Features Service.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

First Call for Children

World Summit for Social Development

Poverty affects individuals and families in every part of the world, although most of the very poorest people — a total of 1.3 billion — live in developing countries. United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has declared poverty a "cruel and unacceptable reality that jeopardizes human existence and dignity" for hundreds of millions of people in developing and industrialized countries.

Poverty, unemployment, social exclusion: these are the core issues that more than 100 leaders from around the world are confronting as they meet in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995 for the World Summit for Social Development.

Today, more than 1 billion people are condemned to poverty — without jobs, without basic necessities, without hope. Most live in rural areas of Africa, Asia and Latin America, although millions more can be found in cities in industrialized countries as well as in the developing world.

Unemployment is a primary cause of poverty. In the last decade, the unemployment situation in most regions of the world — apart from the growth areas of East Asia and parts of South-East Asia — has worsened, both in terms of the number and quality of jobs. Within the world labour force of 2.8 billion people, 1 out of every 10 people cannot find work at a living wage; in rural areas worldwide, 40 per cent of women work for no wages at all.

What happens to a society when its people are denied productive and fulfilling work and are obliged to live without basic necessities? The society unravels and its people are forced to gather what little strength they have simply to exist. Large portions of society are marginalized through exclusion and neglect, homelessness and high crime and mortality. There is hunger, despair, violence and war.

United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has called on the international community to define a new social pact for the whole world, and leaders face a tremendous challenge in devising strategies to attack poverty, create jobs and build solidarity. The questions they will have to confront are daunting: How can populations most crippled by poverty be helped in the short term, and how can the inequality gap between the rich and the poor be narrowed in the long term? How can large numbers of productive and quality jobs be created? How can intolerance, discrimination and violence — leading to social exclusion — be stopped? While the questions are demanding, their solutions are crucial to sustainable human development.

The late James P. Grant, former Executive Director of UNICEF, has said: "We cannot argue, as we could 200 years ago, that there is not enough food to go around; that one half of the world has to be left a little skinny to feed the other half."

Since children create the world of tomorrow, they are at the heart of the World Summit for Social Development. Action to protect this rising generation must be the cornerstone of any new effort to accelerate progress against poverty and pre-empt ecological and social crises.

Important steps have already been taken in this direction. At the World Summit for Children in 1990, the international community agreed on a series of specific and measurable goals for the protection of the lives, the health and the normal growth of children. Since then, more than 100 of the developing nations, with more than 90 per cent of the developing world's children, are making significant progress towards achieving the goals.

This experience has proved that putting children at the centre of development strategy is not only logical but also practical.

Now, as the world gathers for the Social Summit, we are provided with yet another opportunity to turn moral obligation into action. The world must seize this moment to create an agenda for international action to take us into the 21st century — an agenda that will guarantee that poverty, joblessness and social disintegration become ghosts of the past.

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Nitin Desai on challenges of the Social Summit

United Nations

Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development at the United Nations.

For the first time ever, pressing problems of social development and human need constitute the agenda for Heads of State and Government at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen.

Clouded initially by scepticism and confusion about how useful such a broad and presumably unwieldy agenda on social development problems could be, the Summit has managed, in the almost two years since it was announced, to capture the imaginations of many. NGOs have embraced the idea particularly enthusiastically and are playing a central role in extending the debate on the central issues of the Summit.

At the recent Summit preparatory meeting in New York, for example, a number of NGOs arranged an event giving women from around the world an opportunity to testify about the adverse effects structural adjustment programmes have had on their lives and those of their families. The meeting exemplified the invaluable role NGOs can play in forging a link between individuals and communities and international and national decision makers and policy setters.

This role of NGOs is especially important because they represent and count among their members many of the people directly affected by the increasingly perilous social environment in which so much of the world dwells.

It is an environment of marked contrasts. Social progress is evident almost everywhere. The world's wealth has multiplied sevenfold in the past 50 years. Literacy rates and primary school enrolments are up, infant mortality has dropped. But problems are obdurate and growing disparities are perhaps even more evident.

Global economic realignments and structural adjustments have changed the way millions of people earn — or no longer are able to earn — livelihoods. Over 120 million people worldwide are officially unemployed; many millions more struggle in the informal sector. More than 1 billion people live in abject poverty; and conflicts within and between countries in the past year alone speak to a need for defusing national and ethnic tensions.

Summits, as the World Summit for Children has already shown, can help change the face of the world and the course of history. NITIN DESAI, Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development at the United Nations, the department responsible for Summit coordination, describes in the following interview with ***First Call for Children*** his hopes for the global meeting.

What are some of the broad outcomes you would hope for from this Summit?

First, I would hope that the Social Summit raises the profile of social policy and social issues in decision-making, at national and international levels, so that social policy is no longer treated as something subsidiary to mainstream economic policy-making but is fully factored into it.

For instance, in the review of macroeconomic policy, including structural adjustment, social consequences need to be factored in at the time the policy is designed and not as an afterthought.

Second, I hope that the role played by institutions such as cooperatives, trade unions, political parties, business associations, and activist and community groups can be strengthened to help individuals mediate their relationships with the state and the market.

Finally, I hope the Summit leads to a serious commitment to eradicate the extreme manifestations of poverty we have in the world, because it can be done. This has to translate into commitment to specific goals, both on income generation and employment and on provision of basic services of the sort UNICEF promotes.

What are some of the approaches to the world's social problems that you expect the Summit to discuss?

New approaches to poverty alleviation, I hope, will be combined with some concerns emerging on the environmental agenda. For instance, combining resource management with anti-poverty programmes and with concerns emerging from the gender agenda so there is a much sharper focus on the issue of women in poverty and women who are unemployed and the role of women in the economy.

Most important of all, poverty alleviation and employment generation must be treated as development problems and not 'welfare' problems. The capacity of the poor to contribute both to their own advancement as well as to the advancement of society at large must be recognized and supported.

How can this be done?

Any programme, to be effective in this area, must involve those in poverty from the beginning. Those in poverty know far more about what can be done to relieve their problems than somebody somewhere else.

What the poor perceive as the constraints needs to be better understood. It may be infrastructure, it may be credit, it may be access to markets, it may be access to skills. This is really what we mean when we say empowerment.

What possibilities for social development funding do you see?

I think everybody agrees that we need to spend more money on social development. The question is how can we best secure that?

The 20/20 initiative has been promoted by UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO, essentially to serve this objective. We can propose a social fund. In some cases, communities and individuals can help support social services, with some international support. There are a number of possibilities.

Are you optimistic about funding?

The reasons for international and national support for social development programmes are many. The consequences of poverty, unemployment and social stress can be crises, which in turn require emergency responses.

The Summit is being held because there is mutual interest in arriving at a consensus on priorities for social development.

Workers of the world: The facts

Work is an essential component of human dignity and a right that must be guaranteed. To lose sight of this is condemning future generations to live in societies riddled by profound injustices and social exclusion.

Yet unemployment and low productivity employment are among the outstanding economic and social problems around the world today and by far one of the most important causes of poverty. Some 1 billion people around the world live below the poverty line because of the lack of a well-paying occupation.

In an active population of 2.8 billion persons, about 30 per cent or 820 million are registered unemployed or underemployed — engaged in a level of work that does not permit the worker to reach a minimum standard of living. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the world is experiencing what has become the worst global employment crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

UNICEF/ICDC93/Marcus-Lee

In impoverished urban centres, children are increasingly crowding onto city streets, where they struggle desperately to survive. Here, a girl on a sidewalk curb searches for garbage she can recycle.

Employment trends:
Growth of informal sector

With employment shrinking in the formal sector, most new recruits have to be absorbed in the informal sector. In urban areas, in particular, the informal sector is playing the role of a labour sponge, believed to employ 62.5 per cent of the urban labour force, many of them women. The majority of workers in the informal sector are wage labourers who are very low paid.

• The drift to the informal sector represents a fall in the quality of employment. In most countries the growth in the informal sector has been accompanied by declining productivity and increased underemployment. In Africa, the informal sector grew from practically zero in the 1960s to two fifths of the urban labour force by the early 1990s.

• Greece, Italy and Spain have the biggest 'black economies' (informal sector) in the industrialized world, accounting for 20-30 per cent of their gross domestic product (GDP). Switzerland's and Japan's are estimated at a mere 4 per cent. (*The Economist*, February 1994)

Part-time work

Around the world, more people are working part-time than ever before. Figures on part-time work in developing countries are scarce, but where they exist, they show that part-time work is increasing. In industrialized nations, part-time employment has jumped sharply in recent years to reach a total of 60 million people, or one out of seven employees, most of them women and without full-time benefits or protection.

• Part-time workers account for between 10 and 20 per cent of all employees in Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Japan and the United States; more than 20 per cent in Australia, Denmark, New Zealand and the United Kingdom; and 26 per cent in Norway. The practice has grown most rapidly in the Netherlands, where 33 per cent of all employees are part-time workers.

• Part-time work has its drawbacks as well as its advantages. Enterprises are attracted by the gains it offers in flexibility, productivity, motivation, cost benefits and access to skills, while workers find it a way of combining different needs and building a new lifestyle.

At the same time, however, part-time workers are more vulnerable than their full-time counterparts. They are, on average, paid lower hourly rates than full-time workers (this is particularly true of women part-timers) and are also more likely to be excluded from sick pay, unemployment benefits, health insurance, training allowances, holiday pay and bonuses, and extra pay for overtime and variable hours.

More women at work

Of the 828 million women officially estimated to be economically active in 1990, more than half (56 per cent) live in Asia, 29 per cent in the developed regions, 9 per cent in Africa and 5 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean.

• Time-use statistics that include all work (paid and unpaid economic activity and unpaid housework) reveal that women spend more of their time working than men in all developed and developing regions, except in northern America and Australia, where the hours are almost equal. Studies in Africa, Asia and the Pacific have shown that women average 12 to 13 hours more work per week than men.

• Female participation rates in the workforce rose in many regions of the world, including in urban areas in Africa and Latin America, with women working mostly in the informal sector to maintain family incomes above poverty levels.

• Women everywhere have nearly total responsibility for the household.

• Most women are still working in agriculture in much of Africa and Asia. Nearly 80 per cent of economically active women in sub-Saharan Africa and at least half in Asia, except western Asia, are in agriculture.

• Everywhere, women are paid less than men. Men are also more likely to have regular full-time work and receive greater benefits. In Cyprus, Japan and the Republic of Korea, women's wages are the lowest in comparison to men's (about half) among the countries for which data are available.

• In the industrialized nations of North America, Western Europe, Australia, Japan and New Zealand, female participation rates have risen continuously over the past 20 years to the point that women now typically comprise 45 to 50 per cent of the labour force. However, pay for women generally remains lower than for men — some 70 to 80 per cent of men's wages in non-agricultural occupations in Europe.

Migration for work

International migration is an increasingly widespread phenomenon.

• Labour migration offers families opportunities to increase their incomes, but frequently not without a price to pay. In many cases, families are separated, and mothers and sometimes fathers are left to care for their children on their own. The migrant too may suffer from discrimination and be subject to exploitation.

• The World Bank estimates that worldwide, the value of remittances sent by migrants to their countries of origin amounted to more than US$65 billion in 1989, making the value of remittances second only to trade in crude oil. The true value of remittances is likely to be higher since only a portion of total remittances flow through official channels.

Factors that contribute to unemployment

ILO has identified three factors that contribute to this trend of long-term high unemployment in developing and developed nations.

• First, the degree and pace of technological change in industry, services, computers, biotechnology, and especially in communications, have drastically transformed the way work is done. Robotics, computers and other new technologies have rendered some jobs obsolete, although they also improve competitiveness and create more jobs elsewhere.

• Second, the globalization of the economy is intensifying economic competition. One of the results is extreme pressure to increase productivity by taking advantage of technological change to down-size workforces and cut costs.

• Third, the normal movements of the economic cycle, of macroeconomic factors and interest rates, which may or may not be long lasting.

Information and statistics from:
* *The International Labour Organisation.*
* The World's Women 1970-1990: Trends and Statistics, *United Nations, 1991.*

Millions forced to work

The most widespread form of forced labour is debt bondage, involving many millions of workers around the world. The employer typically entraps the worker by offering an advance which he or she has to pay from future earnings. The debt is extremely difficult to pay off and is often passed on from parent to child.

Debt bondage is most prevalent in South Asia and Latin America. According to some estimates, in Pakistan, 20 million people (including 7.5 million children) are working as bonded laborers in industries such as brick-making, quarrying and in the manufacture of *bidis* (cigarettes). Large numbers of child bonded labourers are working in the carpet industry.

Child labour

Since children are rarely in a position to give consent, child labour could be considered as forced labour. It is estimated that 100 to 200 million children work worldwide. According to ILO, in some regions as many as 25 per cent of all children between 10 and 14 are estimated to be working. While many factors are involved — population pressures, urbanization, famines and armed conflicts, and lack of access to schools — the most common denominator is poverty.

Working long hours in poor and often dangerous conditions, the hazards that working children face are many and varied. Children labouring in brickyards carry heavy loads that often leave them injured or deformed. Child carpet weavers work under conditions that ruin their eyesight. Young pencil makers, who manufacture the pencils that other children use in schools, breathe hazardous dust that condemns them to death from tuberculosis and other lung diseases.

Children who work long hours often have no time or energy for school. In depriving children of education, child labour forges shackles of illiteracy and poverty for new generations.

The road to development: Eight steps closer

The World Summit for Social Development comes at a time in world history when it is both possible and imperative to forge a new vision for social development. Most importantly, it represents a tremendous opportunity to strengthen international cooperation to ensure that the basic human needs of people everywhere are met.

Children and youth are at the heart of the Social Summit since meeting their basic needs is the best long-term investment a society can make. The world has already made considerable progress in meeting those needs and the potential exists to make that progress truly global.

In UNICEF's experience, however, the following key issues need to be addressed if that potential is to be fully realized.

• **First, we should adopt concrete goals to reduce poverty.** If political will is to be mobilized, the Summit commitments must be specific and set within a clear timeframe. This approach is central to creating a sense of accountability and to supporting all groups in society to embrace the goals.

It was precisely this strategy, employed at the World Summit for Children in 1990, that has resulted in tangible progress in the welfare of children. The goals for children established by 71 Heads of State or Government, and the concrete commitments they have spurred, have already translated into higher immunization rates, reduction of polio and other diseases, and longer lives for children. As a result, the lives of 3 million children around the world are saved each year.

Basic human needs in health, education, nutrition, and water and sanitation are an essential part of any well-rounded anti-poverty package. With a well-defined set of time-bound objectives, the Summit could then consider establishing some broad poverty targets, such as the eradication of extreme poverty by a specific year or the halving of absolute poverty by the year 2005.

To be operationally meaningful, these commitments will need to be translated into country-level programmes of action. The global objectives will need national definitions (i.e. the definition of small farmers or access to credit; the definition of absolute poverty) and will need to be translated into strategies that are backed by financial commitments.

• **Second, the commitments to objectives must be matched by commitments of resources.** The Summit should provide a powerful reminder to the world community of the need to increase official development assistance to the approved United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of GNP. The 20/20 initiative can be an important advocacy tool in this effort. (*See page IV.*)

• **Third, we should establish effective mechanisms — subnationally, nationally and internationally — to monitor implementation of commitments made at the Summit, guide mid-course corrections and report on progress achieved.** The reviews need to be an integral part of the social mobilization effort and a tool to ensure popular involvement and support.

• **Fourth, we should give special attention to the needs of Africa and to least developed countries elsewhere.** Particularly in the last decade, the least developed countries have had to cope with sharp declines in their share of world trade and with growing debt burdens, while benefiting very little from recent resumptions in North-South capital flows.

We should agree on a series of measures which will, in the short term, stop this process of marginalization, and in the medium to long term, help to reverse it, by enabling the least developed countries to position themselves to capture more of the benefits of global economic activity.

• **Fifth, we should translate the emerging consensus behind more human-oriented adjustment processes into actual practice.** There is now broad agreement that from the beginning, adjustment processes must take full account of human and long-term development objectives. We should now develop mechanisms to ensure that our practice lives up to our ideals.

World leaders at the Summit could make a major contribution to improving adjustment processes by agreeing to set up a high-level international commission to review, rethink and reach specific conclusions on new approaches and international policy actions towards structural adjustment.

• **Sixth, we should include gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls among our most exalted social values.** We should recognize that gender inequality afflicts girls and women throughout their lives, and that at different stages of life, the sources and manifestations of gender bias change. We should recognize the many sources and forms of inequality and design effective measures to eliminate them.

• **Seventh, we should end the epidemic of violence plaguing our societies.** The following five principles should be endorsed by the Summit and used to guide the development of specific programmes for reducing, and eventually eliminating, violence:

1) Violence should be viewed in all its forms as a human rights issue, and it should be recognized that international human rights instruments are powerful tools for eliminating it.

2) It should be recognized that there is a close, two-way link between family violence and violence in society.

3) It should be acknowledged that gender inequality is the source of much of the violence we see around us.

4) Children should be taught to settle disputes in non-violent ways, to value compromise over conflict and to express and manage anger before it escalates into violence.

5) The Summit should ensure that the ideas and values embraced by our leaders, and reflected in our media, reinforce the message that violence should be censured — not glorified.

• **Eighth, the rights and needs of our children and youth must be central to the Summit's deliberations.** The Summit is about their future. Children who are well fed and educated grow up to be productive, innovative workers and responsible adults, and will make lasting and positive contributions to their families, their communities, their countries and the world around them.

As the late James P. Grant, former UNICEF Executive Director, stated: "There will always be something more immediate; there will never be anything more important."

Creating an agenda for development

By Bharati Sadasivam

Governments and international organizations participating in the World Summit for Social Development must articulate a conceptual breakthrough if the historic meeting is not to end up as a disappointing exercise, said Dr. Mahbub ul Haq, Special Adviser to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and author of the *Human Development Report*.

In an impassioned address to journalists during a day-long seminar on the Summit at United Nations Headquarters, Dr. Haq outlined his vision and an alternative agenda for the Social Summit. "Copenhagen should signal the rebirth of the UN, not by recycling the proposals of the last three decades, not by camouflaging the real issues in the document so as not to offend different constituencies, but by acts of political courage and realism."

Leaders the world over have to realize, first, that human security is indivisible. The Summit will have achieved a conceptual breakthrough if it reflects the realization that this is the real issue of the 21st century, continued Dr. Haq. "Are we sensitive to the new frontiers of the global reach of human security — from HIV/AIDS in Africa to drug rehabilitation all over the world?" he asked. The economic and social costs of the AIDS pandemic in Africa today are a staggering US$240 billion. Governments concerned must face the sobering reality that US$10 billion invested upstream, in primary health care centres in Africa a decade ago, could have averted this immense human tragedy.

Dr. Haq outlined four critical issues that should be addressed at the Summit. The first is a "compact" committing nations to invest in people rather than in arms. Since 1992, arms spending has declined by 4 per cent in the industrialized countries. In contrast, developing nations — "helped generously by the West, by the very nations that oppose food subsidies in poor countries" — had increased their military spending.

Developing countries accounted for 18 per cent of global military spending in 1990, compared to 5 per cent in 1960. Over the last five years, military spending has gone up fivefold in Africa compared to social and health spending. India and Pakistan, two of the world's poorest nations, spend US$20 billion each year on defence. Together, they bought twice as many arms over the last year from the global arms bazaar than did Saudi Arabia, which is 25 times richer.

"You would not guess from these figures that these are countries with health and social crises. There is a social volcano exploding; countries are disintegrating. Political leaders should cut down military spending by 20 to 30 per cent, convert military assistance to economic assistance and make Africa arms-free. We need acts of political courage to show that social development is important," Dr. Haq said.

The second important issue, Dr. Haq said, was the "20/20" initiative — a restructuring of national budgets and foreign aid to ensure that developing countries would devote 20 per cent of government spending to basic social services and that donor countries would allocate 20 per cent of their total aid budgets to basic social services. "The cold war is over, but why do rich nations continue to give aid primarily to their strategic partners of the cold war era? Are these the poorest countries in the world?" Dr. Haq asked. In many countries, 40 per cent of budgets are mortgaged to political interests. For example, two thirds of United States aid of $10 billion last year went to Egypt, El Salvador, Israel, the Philippines and Turkey. El Salvador got more US money than Bangladesh, which is five times poorer and has a population 24 times as large. "Again, we need political courage here, not additional resources."

UNICEF/93-BOL/0508/Andrew

Children who are healthy, well fed and educated grow up to be productive, innovative workers and responsible adults. Meeting their basic needs is the best long-term investment a society can make.

The question of aid raises the third issue — political borders. "The worst thing you can do to the poor is give them charity, whether domestically or internationally," Dr. Haq said. Developing countries lose 10 times as much from barriers in the way of trade, migration and international capital than they gain from official development assistance (ODA). Developing countries gain US$50 billion in ODA, compared to losing US$500 billion from all barriers.

"The clamour everywhere is for open borders. But it appears that countries in the South and East, from India to Brazil, are opening them too late because the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) nations are closing them. This has resulted in chaos, because 80 per cent of global trade is from the North," Dr. Haq said.

Finally, the fourth and final crucial issue that should be addressed at the Summit, according to Dr. Haq, is the future role of the United Nations. At the end of its first 50 years, the UN is entering a new era of conflict management. In the last three years, 79 wars were fought within nations, and only three between them. Ninety per cent of casualties were civilians, and not soldiers as they were before World War II.

"Yet the UN is fighting the battles of tomorrow with the weapons of yesterday," Dr. Haq said. It spent US$2 billion on soldiers in Somalia to deliver a few million dollars' worth of food. Peace-keeping operations cost US$4.25 billion in 1993, which was more than total spending on peace-keeping in the previous 42 years.

"The more we are in fire-fighting, the more fires there will be. What we need is not an international police force, but an international peace corps." Rushing soldiers to trouble spots is not the answer to problems of human security, Dr. Haq said. "We must institute structural change, put in place institutional machinery so that this will be the Summit to end all summits."

One way to do this, he suggested, would be to restructure the Economic and Social Council. "If today's pressing issues are socioeconomic rather than political, how can we deal with them without structures? The G-7, the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and the World Bank deal only with financial issues. There is no single forum that deals with the larger human issues for which the UN was created."

All these challenges — of a compact or a political commitment to invest in people rather than arms, of open borders, the 20/20 initiative and institutional structures — do not call for vast resources. "They call for political realism, for rethinking on human security within nations and internationally. Leaders going to the Summit to sign documents should ask themselves if the exercise will be worth it without political preparation."

Bharati Sadasivam is former assistant editor of the Times of India *in Bombay and is currently attending Columbia University in New York.*

Practical ways to fight poverty

20/20 gains support

Currently, human development priorities command an average of 13 per cent of developing countries' national budgets and 10 per cent of development aid from industrialized countries. To ensure universal access to basic social services, an additional US$30 billion to US$40 billion per year will be needed during the rest of the decade. With '20/20 vision', funding for social services is within reach:

- Developing countries would need to increase expenditures for basic social services to 20 per cent of government spending. This would generate about two thirds of the needed funding.
- Donor countries would also need to increase their aid allocations in this sector to 20 per cent of their total aid budgets. This would provide much of the remaining one third of the funding.

With the 20/20 initiative, each country will need to review its spending and priorities to determine where resources can be shifted and additional resources found. Military spending is one sector where savings can often be achieved. Improved management and higher priority to basic services within social service ministries are others. Subsidies can be more carefully targeted and support for public enterprises and utilities reviewed. Opportunities for private enterprises can spur growth that can support basic services.

As for donor countries, while assistance strategies of individual countries vary, an analysis can determine how aid can most effectively be restructured to give more support to basic social services. Debt relief for developing countries, for example, through debt-for-social-development swaps, can directly channel resources to basic social services.

National and global measures are also needed to encourage economic growth and ensure greater access to productive assets — including land, credit and information — and greater participation in decision-making by those who live in poverty. The 20/20 initiative is a key element in this broader development agenda.

Debt reduction essential

For more than a decade, the debt crisis has imposed a crushing financial burden on developing countries, crippling already weak economies and draining funds needed for social priorities, particularly the needs of children.

For individuals and societies, lack of economic growth and indebtedness erode living standards and make development difficult or impossible. This is especially troubling because those largely affected are the poorest and most vulnerable people in already poor countries.

- More than 40 severely indebted countries are also low-income countries, with per capita incomes of less than US$675 per year.
- Africa, the most seriously debt-distressed continent, spends about four times more on debt servicing than it does on health services for its 600 million people.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, more than 200 million people, nearly half the population, survive on little more than US$1 per day. The World Bank forecasts that the number of poor will increase to 300 million by the year 2000.
- Of 30 developing countries with the highest under-five child mortality rates (ranging from 158 to 320 deaths per 1,000), 27 are debt-distressed.

AIDS and the rights of the child

By the year 2000, it is projected that Thailand will have nearly 400,000 AIDS orphans, 80,000 of whom will be infected with the AIDS virus, according to the Institute for Population and Social Research of Mahidol University in Bangkok. 'AIDS and Child Rights — The Impact on Thailand', a report by Vitit Muntarbhorn*, the UN Special Rapporteur for the Sale and Trafficking of Children, explains why Thai laws and policies need to be modified to protect the growing number of children affected by AIDS from abuse and discrimination. MIRIAM BIANCO reports.

It is estimated that nearly 1 million adults in Thailand are infected with the AIDS virus and nearly 300,000 more are infected each year. *AIDS and Child Rights — The Impact on Thailand* examines how existing laws and policies impact children affected by the growing crisis.

"It is increasingly clear that HIV/AIDS is not simply a disease — it is also a sociocultural, political and legal problem because it has a great impact on human rights, particularly the rights of the child," said Professor Muntarbhorn at a press conference to launch the report.

"HIV/AIDS compels us to reappraise policies, laws and practices in Thailand, precisely because it questions our own sense of humanity and the balance between individual interests and those of the community," said Mr. Muntarbhorn.

New laws needed

Discrimination against children with HIV/AIDS in Thailand takes many forms. Since there are no specific services for HIV/AIDS sufferers, they are discriminated against by the prevailing health system, as well as by many health care workers who will not treat them.

The report highlights the need for a new social security law to ensure health services and subsidies for families who are impoverished, as well as access to those services by children and others infected. The report also calls for the introduction of a law to prohibit discrimination and provide for equal treatment and accessible remedies for people who have been discriminated against.

On the issue of abortion, the report considers whether a third exception to the criminal law which prohibits abortion (unless a woman's health is in danger or when a crime has been committed against a woman) should be made to allow for abortions when the pregnant woman has HIV/AIDS and her foetus may also be infected.

In cases where parents are unable to look after their children, the report says that local adoptions should be encouraged and the relevant laws should be improved to allow more protection for children.

The report suggests that a law be created to protect the right to privacy and particularly to protect against compulsory testing for HIV/AIDS and to respect the confidentiality of information involving people who are HIV-positive. This protection should be extended to the employment law as well.

Protecting children against HIV/AIDS naturally involves protecting them from sexual exploitation and abuse, the main causes of infection among children in Thailand. According to the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, "NGOs report that there are hundreds of thousands of child prostitutes, girls and boys in some nations in South and South-East Asia. They maintain that in one beach resort, there are some 10,000 boys under 16 working as prostitutes. They are paid about US$1.50 per day or simply receive food and clothing for their services."

One way of according them this protection is to raise the age of consent (now 15) to 18, according to the report. This would also conform to the definition of 'child' contained in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Immigrants

In Thailand, refugee and stateless children with HIV/AIDS are particularly discriminated against, and are excluded from all state services, including medical facilities and hospitals. Under the current Thai law, children and women trafficked for sexual and other purposes into the country are considered "illegal immigrants" and as a result face severe discrimination.

The report states that these women and children should be recognized as "special humanitarian cases" needing protection and assistance. They should not be detained, but rather granted the maximum assistance possible.

Old laws don't protect

The report outlines the constraints in Thailand's existing laws and highlights current policies and practices which prevent children from exercising their rights — specifically the right to non-discrimination and the right to protection from abuse and exploitation. The report also states that many existing laws and local ordinances contradict the CRC.

Although Thailand ratified the Convention in 1992, the Government expressed some reservations to three articles: article 7, which states that the child has the right to a name at birth and the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, to know his or her parents and to be cared for by them; article 22, which states that special protection should be granted to a refugee child or to a child seeking refugee status; and article 29, which states that education shall foster respect for the child's parents, his or her cultural identity, language and values, and for the cultural background and value of others.

To date, the Thai Government has claimed that national security issues have been responsible for these reservations. In a country with more than 100,000 refugees from neighbouring countries (including Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar) and tribal groups (in many border areas seeking either protection or to set up their own states), the issues of nationality, refugees and related rights of education are politically delicate and complex. Pressure, however, is mounting both within the Government and by NGOs for these reservations to be withdrawn.

The report recommends that the Thai Constitution be amended to ensure that child rights are placed in the section on 'rights' rather than 'policies', since rights are stronger than policies. These rights could then be used in ordinary courts of law and invoked to invalidate those laws and practices that conflict with the Constitution.

"Legal measures and their implementation cannot be seen as self-contained," said Professor Muntarbhorn. "Much will also depend upon a broader socialization and mobilization process, interwoven with education within all communities to respond humanely to children and those with HIV/AIDS."

Miriam Bianco is Assistant Information Officer, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO).

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* Mr. Muntarbhorn resigned as UN Special Rapporteur for the Sale and Trafficking of Children in December 1994.

Improving primary education in Chile

By Viola Espinola

Well-trained teachers, high enrolment figures and free texts were not enough to ensure that Chile's children received a good education, it was discovered in the late 1980s. A national educational evaluation found that 40 per cent of children could not read after four years of school. Disparities emerged, in relation to students' socio-economic position: test results in Spanish and math from the best private schools were in the 80 per cent range, while those from public schools in poor areas were in the 30-40 per cent range.

Within days of Chile's return to democracy in March 1990, the new Government vowed to invest in education and launched the 900 Schools programme (P-900). Its five-point strategy is already improving learning and teaching.

The P-900 programme offers 'intensive care' to students in 10 per cent of Chile's primary schools. Identified by low achievement scores, the roughly 1,000 participating schools are among the poorest in the country, many of them located in isolated rural areas.

The programme incorporates four basic elements: workshops for slow learners twice a week in language and math (for third and fourth graders); weekly workshops in language, arts and math (for first- to fourth-grade teachers); the provision of workbooks in language, math and the natural and social sciences to supplement regular texts (for third and fourth graders); and the provision of auxiliary materials — including books for classroom libraries, flash cards, games and portable tape recorders to encourage children to integrate their oral culture into the learning process (for grades one through four).

Better teachers

Initially regarded with scepticism by many teachers, P-900 has gained legitimacy since its launch. One reason is the support it gives all first- through fourth-grade teachers in weekly workshops, reaffirming their fundamental role in the learning process.

Conducted by trained supervisors from the Ministry of Education, the workshops train teachers in new interactive teaching methods. The workshops also provide a forum for critical reflection, and enable instructors to evaluate their practices and their students' academic results and to discuss improvement strategies. Teachers also receive manuals, which are regularly revised in the light of problems and suggestions discussed in the teachers' workshops.

Community gets involved

One of the most innovative aspects of the programme is enlisting the community to work with slow learners.

Twice each week, community members — chosen by the school and trained by Ministry of Education supervisors — run two-hour workshops for third and fourth graders with learning disabilities. The learning workshops, which give the children four extra teaching hours a week (148 extra hours a year), are designed to improve achievement in the basic subjects, to increase the children's self-esteem and to enhance their creativity.

Children are given their own exercise booklets, in which they are encouraged to explore their identity, environment and feelings through activities that demand the use of reading, writing, mathematical and comprehension skills.

Same resources, new results

P-900 uses existing resources; no additional personnel have been hired. The Ministry of Education is responsible for P-900, which is managed by a small team which includes specialists in the teaching of Spanish and mathematics.

Ministry of Education supervisors in each of the 40 provinces are a critical element. They lead the teachers' workshops and train the community monitors who conduct the children's workshops.

P-900 began in 969 primary schools in 1990; by 1992, a total of 1,376 schools were in the programme, involving 7,267 teachers and 222,491 children from first to fourth grade. As schools show improvement and are discharged from the programme, new schools join. Today, 1,000 schools participate in P-900.

Yet the success of the programme can best be measured by improved academic achievement. After three years, average Spanish and mathematics scores showed greater improvement in the P-900 schools than in schools that do not use P-900 strategies. While non-participating schools showed an average increase of 11.6 points in Spanish and math (6.3 per cent improvement), achievement scores in P-900 schools increased by 17.8 points (7.6 per cent improvement).

The P-900 programme has also strengthened the commitment of Ministry of Education supervisors, principals and teachers to the education process. Teachers say they are more committed because the Government fulfilled promises that had long been ignored and because they have finally received the material and technical support they need to improve their teaching.

The P-900 programme was initially funded by the Government of Chile and by Danish and Swedish loans. Today, it is funded entirely by the Government.

Viola Espinola is a consultant with UNICEF Santiago.

Animation for development

Participants from more than 63 countries attended the Animation for Development Workshop and Summit in Orlando, Florida (14-18 November 1994). Hosted by UNICEF with assistance from Walt Disney Feature Animation, the workshop was designed to bring UNICEF staff, world class animators, NGOs and animation business leaders together to enhance child survival and development through creative communication.

Lively visual presentations reviewed the history of animation, new technological developments in the industry and creative ways to use animation as an educational tool. Workshops addressed concept development, storyboards and character creation, as well as critical issues pertaining to child survival and development.

At the Summit, which took place on the last two days of the meeting, a number of animation industry chiefs spoke to the group. They included Roy Disney, Vice-Chairman of the Board of the Walt Disney Company and Member of the Board of the United States Committee for UNICEF; and Michel Ocelot, President of ASIFA — the International Animation Society. The first day of the Summit began with a look at how UNICEF has used animation, and animated films from UNICEF offices across the globe were screened.

The week concluded with the signing of the following declaration by more than 60 animators from all over the world:

"... As leading animators committed to children's well-being and to the full achievement of rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, we offer to work with UNICEF to this end. Through the animation for development network for children which we establish here today, we will contribute our advice and skills to the development of animation for the rights of the child."

Since the workshop, UNICEF has been working to develop new projects with newly formed alliances.

Meena, an enchanting heroine of a series of animated films, produced by UNICEF in South Asia, represents a dynamic role model for girls in the region and a powerful advocate for their cause.

Production of a book and video on the workshop and Summit are in progress and will be available later this year. These will be circulated to all UNICEF field offices and National Committees.

Educating with cartoons in Somalia

By Christian Clark

Somalia has an ancient oral culture rooted in a love of poetry as well as a widespread custom of requiring children, at very early ages, to memorize complex generations of family and clan lineages.

Yet in recent years, a visual culture has emerged, largely a response to illiteracy rates that are among the highest in the world. In 1990, the last year statistics were available, only 36 per cent of men and a paltry 14 per cent of women could read and write.

As a former cartoonist*, I was indeed surprised to see, on my very first day in this country, cartoons drawn on the dusty exteriors of most squat cement buildings, which are the backbone of most Somali commercial districts.

Even a butcher here in south Mogadiscio has learned to capitalize on the visual literacy of the Somali people, by painting billy-goats frolicking in vivid shades of blue and grey on the outside wall of his establishment.

He has discovered what we need to learn: that to better educate people who have little access to education, we need to increase our use of comic 'graphics' as a medium of spreading information in our programme activities. In short, cartoons communicate.

It has been said that the art of caricature depends on immediately recognizable symbols, a kind of iconography. Indeed, when we study caricature, we in fact study the creation of mythology, the turning of abstract notions into concrete symbols. Although all cartoonists must deal with 'hand me down' cultural traditions (as completely original types are largely incomprehensible to their audiences), cartoons are by and large universal, and almost universally appreciated by the general public.

From an institutional context, however, cartoons, until recently, have been either ignominiously ignored or associated only with the Sunday 'funnies'. Yet now there are signs that cartoons are belatedly being recognized as an important educational tool for both children and adults.

Here in Somalia, UNICEF is using cartoons to enhance child survival and development. During the recent cholera epidemic, more than 500,000 anti-cholera cartoon leaflets and 20,000 posters were distributed countrywide. In February 1995, the first 20,000 copies of a 74-page Somali version of *Facts for Life* are expected to roll off the press, illustrated as a graphic novel by one of the country's top cartoonists. This new version will feature a day-to-day account of a mother and father who learn what to do in case of diarrhoea and dysentery, diphtheria and dyslexia.

Both entertaining and educational, *Facts for Life* and *The Water Pump* (a 45-second animated film commissioned by UNICEF Somalia that advocates the redirection of social spending from weapons of war to tools of peace) have proven extremely popular in initial audience pre-testing from Kismayo to Hargeisa.

Perhaps this is the most graphic indication of the power of the cartoon. If we can get disparate Somali clan members to agree on something, then we just might be on to something.

Christian Clark, UNICEF's Information Officer in Mogadiscio (Somalia), is a former cartoonist and two-time Emmy Award-winning writer for the children's television programme, Sesame Street.

* Editor's note: One of Christian's cartoons appeared in the last issue of ***First Call for Children.***

International Children's Day of Broadcasting extends wide reach

More than 1,800 radio and television stations in 138 countries participated in the third annual International Children's Day of Broadcasting (ICDB) on 11 December 1994. This year's ICDB surpassed previous years by reaching more viewers than ever before — a potential worldwide audience of well over 1 billion viewers.

At least one major broadcaster in every region of the world participated and three participants alone — Hong Kong's Star TV, the Middle East Broadcasting Centre and Monitor Radio — reached a potential audience of over 50 million viewers.

UNICEF formed new relationships with international professional organizations, including all major broadcasting unions, the National Association of Television Programme Executives, Warner Brothers, the National Film Board of Canada, the Walt Disney Company, Twentieth Century Fox and Turner Broadcasting System.

Heads of State and Government and members of royal families in 10 countries participated this year, while governments became involved in ICDB activities in 32 countries (more than double last year's figure).

To recognize the broadcasters' outstanding efforts, the International Council of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and UNICEF will present an Emmy Award to the broadcaster outside the United States with the best programme presentation for ICDB '94 at the International Emmy Awards in November 1995.

Recycling rags to riches in Egypt

By Margaret Bald

High up in the Mokattam Hills, a few miles — yet worlds — away from downtown Cairo, 17,000 garbage collectors, or *zabbaleen*, among the poorest of the poor, sort and recycle the 7,000 tons of garbage produced daily by Cairo's burgeoning population.

In these dusty squatter settlements, a model project of the Association for the Protection of the Environment, an Egyptian NGO, puts into practice a core principle of the International Conference on Population and Development: that women's empowerment and sustainable development will lead to population stabilization.

The project targets the community's most disadvantaged girls — those who come from the poorest families and have never attended school. Since 1988 when the NGO was formed, the Association's rag recycling programme has trained several hundred girls to weave discarded cotton scraps into rugs, to make patchwork quilts and embroidered folk-art tableaus, or through a new recycled paper project, to transform scrap paper into stationery.

After graduating from a three-month training programme, the girls receive their own loom or sewing machine and continue to work at home. Paid by the piece, their products are sold at expositions in Cairo hotels and suburban shops. The Association, which is funded entirely by Egyptian donors, handles marketing and quality control.

Most importantly, however, the project raises the status of young women by improving the quality of life for these young girls and their families in tangible and unexpected ways.

The Association encourages girls who participate in the programme to remain unmarried until age 18, offering a wedding party and gift of 500 Egyptian pounds (about US$150) as an incentive. The programme also provides literacy classes and uses drama to convey important health messages, such as the dangers of early marriage and childbearing and the importance of preventive maternal and child health care.

The result, said Samira H. Abou Seif, an Association volunteer, has been a radical reduction in family size among the women who entered the programme. "Those who got married since joining our programme have only one child and most of the girls say they want only one or two," she said. About 75 per cent of the women in the programme use a modern method of family planning.

While the women are learning to help themselves, they are assisting others in the community as well. Some of the adolescent weavers, such as 19-year-old Gehan Guirgis, have also been trained as 'primary health visitors'. "We talk with parents about prenatal care and family planning. We take children to be vaccinated and explain to them the dangers of going barefoot in the garbage," says Gehan. Raised in a family of eight and now engaged, she says, "I want only one child. My fiancé agrees. I have seen so many problems as a health visitor, so much misery for women with so many children. We cannot put ourselves in the same situation."

Margaret Bald is an American journalist who works for the Women's Feature Service.

Produced by the NGO Committee on UNICEF

Creating violence-free families

By Sara Ann Friedman

Domestic violence is an issue that must be on the agendas of this year's major United Nations conferences. While the International Year of the Family has officially ended, the concerns and solutions discussed at last year's Symposium to seek viable 'Strategies for Creating Violence-free Families' are more relevant than ever. Representatives from more than 30 NGOs, from China to the Caribbean, met at UNICEF House in New York (23-25 May 1994) for the Symposium, co-sponsored by the Bahá'í International Community, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and UNICEF.

The following issues and strategies emerged from the two days of workshops and discussions:

• Family violence is a global pandemic that the international community can no longer ignore, deny or permit to remain hidden. It ravages all regions, all economic and educational strata, all religions and communities, and all types of families.

• Family violence has deep roots in most cultures and religions and is supported, even institutionalized, by patriarchal values in most societies. Public responses to acts of violence range from overt pride to denial or tacit consent. "Incest or wife-battering may happen in 30 per cent of families," said Nahid Toubia of the World Population Council, "but it still isn't happening" in the public's eye.

• At policy-making levels, family violence is too often still considered a private matter, and in many law codes, it is not even a punishable offence. Where laws prohibiting family violence do exist, there is little effort to implement them.

• Denial is one of the greatest obstacles to eliminating family violence. Victims must be helped to recognize and acknowledge violence when it occurs — to themselves, a sister, brother, aunt or grandmother — and receive the necessary follow-up support and protection. Women and children must be taught that they, too, perpetuate violence by remaining silent, excusing violence, blaming themselves and accepting cultural rationales.

How to combat family violence

Strategies to create violence-free families must go beyond individual victims and include the whole family — where the dynamics of violence are transmitted from one generation to another. They must begin with the task of developing a new kind of 'family' unit, whatever its size or composition, based on unity, equality and mutual respect rather than power, according to Dr. Hussain Danesh, Director of the Institute for International Education, in his keynote address to the Symposium.

The Symposium also recommended that:

• New cultural values of mutual respect rather than domination of one sex over the other are needed throughout societies.

• Religious and political leaders, educators and law enforcement officials must be sensitized and mobilized to support and promulgate such values through policies, programmes and legislation.

• All channels of information need to convey more positive images of girls and women and more egalitarian relationships between the sexes.

• War should not be glorified or social violence eroticized, and women should not be portrayed as helpless, dumb, disposable or available objects of male sexuality.

• Schools need to redesign curricula, texts, sports programmes and other activities to promote gender equality and eliminate patriarchal gender-biased values.

• All educational facilities and youth-oriented organizations need to focus on educating boys to develop non-violent attitudes and to become nurturing parents through new forms of conflict-resolution, peer counselling, and new symbols and role models of masculinity.

Participants placed a major emphasis on the essential task of counselling perpetrators of violence so that the pattern is not repeated with new victims.

Moving in the right direction

While Symposium participants acknowledged the daunting nature of creating violence-free families, they were also inspired and motivated by the number of grass-roots strategies taking place — from Asia to North America; from model family projects to teen hotlines.

Multiplied worldwide, innovative and creative work by NGOs in training, counselling or advocacy can have a powerful impact in reducing family violence. But if it is to be eliminated, or even addressed on a global scale, it requires the full partnership of governments, institutions, intergovernmental agencies, NGOs and all levels of civil society.

For copies of the Executive Summary of the Symposium, contact: Hourig Babikian, H-6F, 3 UN Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10017, USA. Tel: 212-326-7482; fax: 212-326-7260.

Editor's note:
The Symposium generated two follow-up workshops at the Women's Conference Regional PrepComs in Vienna and Dakar. 'Bringing Human Rights Home: The Creation of Violence-free Families and Communities' in Vienna, co-sponsored by the Bahá'í International Community, International Women's Rights Action Watch and UNICEF, explored the positive roles men can and should play in preventing violence and defined the mutual ground on which men and women can stand to build a violence-free society.

In Dakar, the Bahá'í International Community and UNIFEM jointly presented a video demonstration of 'Traditional Media as Agent for Change' — a three-country project in Bolivia, Cameroon and Malaysia which addresses women's participation in decision-making and shows how traditional media can be used successfully to change attitudes.

Illustration Anahad Graphic Studio

The links between violence in the family and social, structural and political violence are inescapable.

Baltic children in conflict with the law

By Ghassan Rubeiz

In the Baltic States and throughout Eastern and Central Europe, the crime rate among youth is rising steadily. Causes and solutions are complex, both closely linked to the region's economic, political and social upheavals.

To analyse those causes, prioritize solutions and build on their recent work together, more than 50 representatives of governments, international and local NGOs, judges and lawyers held a regional seminar in Riga (Latvia), from 30 May to 2 June 1994.

The seminar, entitled 'Children and Youth in Conflict with the Law', was organized by the Latvia Children's Fund, the Christian Children's Fund, the International Catholic Child Bureau, the International Association of Juvenile and Family Magistrates, and the International Federation of Social Workers.

Participants agreed that to address these challenges, new approaches and attitudes as well as new levels of family participation and responsibility were critical. A successful strategy would have to rely on accurate and appropriately targeted data collection and analysis. It would also have to address social as well as legal implications, protect children's rights as expressed in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and other international conventions, and provide support for an advocacy role for themselves, the NGOs.

Collecting data

NGOs in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have taken major steps to gather and analyse accurate and relevant data on crime among juveniles. Because this data had been monitored for years under the Soviet system, it is hard to know to what extent the numbers reflect a real increase in crime or simply more accurate documentation.

Nevertheless, while numbers vary slightly, the trends among the three countries are strikingly similar. Of all crimes, between 1 in 4 and 1 in 6 are committed by young people ranging in age from 14 to 19. A gradually increasing number are committed by girls, while the perpetrators are increasingly getting younger — under 15. Significantly, one third to one half of these young people neither work nor attend school.

The majority of adolescent crimes are committed against property and when violence occurs, it is most often during robbery. Available information reveals a clear link between juvenile crime and an increase in drug abuse, a rising number of teenage gangs, and negligent families. In addition, there appears to be a sharp increase in acts of sexual violence against girls, but these statistics are inadequately documented and under-reported.

The key to finding solutions

To further investigate the causes of increasing juvenile crime, to develop solutions and to encourage public awareness and participation, the Latvia Children's Fund solicited citizens' views on the matter. According to the survey, which served as a basis for discussion at the seminar, a majority of

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Rise in youth crime in Baltic States

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respondents saw both an increase in crime among young people and an increase in their vulnerability. Respondents placed heavy responsibility for the antisocial and criminal acts of young people on the home environment — fighting, drunkenness, abuse, filth and lack of food — and on the indifference of the new governments. Close to 90 per cent of respondents believed that children are worse off today than under Soviet surveillance and that the State is devoting less attention to children.

Participants noted the clear link between poverty and juvenile crime. The loosening of economic controls has brought increased unemployment, while health services and other state benefits and protections have disappeared. In 1980, 55 per cent of children aged one to six attended day care or preschool; in 1992 the number had dropped to 28 per cent. High school drop-out numbers have mounted due to poverty as families are unable to pay for the costs of clothes, materials and meals.

Juvenile crime is also a direct consequence of social instability caused by the collapse of the Soviet system which maintained absolute authority over people's lives. The result has been freedom with a shaky foundation and few tools or blueprints to build a new structure. The loss of state interest in children has not been replaced by an active family role. Bombardment by Western values, violence in the media, materialism, drugs, sexual 'immorality' as well as more positive social change and openness have intensified the 'normal' alienation and rebelliousness of teenagers with which this new society has little experience.

Social and legal solutions

It is clear that prevention is the key to any solution and participants agreed that social as well as legal solutions are essential. These included:

- A better understanding of the development of adolescents, and a recognition that youthful conduct that does not conform to prescribed social norms and mores is part of the maturation process, which tends to disappear in adulthood.
- An important new role for the family as the central unit responsible for socialization and development of children. There is a need for more appropriate government policies that encourage and support stable and nurturing family environments. In the case of young offenders, detention and separation from the family should be the last resort, and families need to be kept informed and made part of the process.
- A sensitivity to labelling children in conflict with the law as criminals, delinquents or deviants.
- Reform of the legal system to include: shorter prison sentences; experimental programmes with community service instead of institutionalization; counselling and therapy in institutions; and separation of children from adults during trial and incarceration.

As Western NGOs and judicial experts shared their experiences, they acknowledged the limitations of their own success and understanding. "Although we are getting promising results," said Professor Friedrich Loesel of Germany, he cautioned that modern disciplinary measures have not controlled recidivism in the West.

Attention to human rights

Participants also paid close attention to the importance of protecting children's rights as human rights, according to established international standards. The Latvian survey also shows an increase in violence against children and an increase in the violation of the rights of children in conflict with the law.

Addressing the seminar, Marie-Francoise Lucaker-Babel, Senior Programme Officer for Defense for Children International in Geneva, asked the age-old question: "How do we strike a balance between ensuring the protection of juveniles who commit crimes and the protection of society through control and punishment of 'deviant' behaviour?"

She also acknowledged that a society can only develop fully if children's personal development and education are fostered. By promoting the dignity and worth of juveniles, their respect for the human rights and freedoms of others can be reinforced, encouraging young people to assume a more constructive role in society.

Numerous international Conventions, including the Beijing, Havana, and the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, already entitle juvenile offenders to specific protections: to be separated from adult defendants and prisoners; to be brought speedily to trial and adjudication; and for their age to be considered in rehabilitation and length of sentencing.

New role of NGOs

For the Baltic States, one of the happier outcomes of the stressful transition period has been the growth of credibility and respect for NGOs, which has resulted in increased access to government and participation in developing new legislation.

The seminar was particularly successful in furthering the ongoing process of cooperation and communication between international and local NGOs. Several meetings have already taken place and more are planned to further develop strategies, exchange ideas and carry out fund-raising, research and documentation. This will enable local NGOs to confront new challenges and local organizations to develop a real sense of their own new and powerful role as motivators of social change.

Already several concrete projects have resulted from this and earlier seminars including a new Law of Charity and the Disabled, in Lithuania; a plan to introduce a juvenile court, in Estonia; and the establishment of community services for juvenile offenders, also in Estonia. In addition, the Prime Minister and Attorney General of Latvia, who attended the seminar, are examining the recommendations to develop innovative legislation regarding children in conflict with the law.

Ghassan Rubeiz is Programme Manager for ChildEurope at the Christian Children's Fund in Geneva.

The Child Rights Caucus: A new kid on the block

Two major lessons have emerged for NGOs from their experience in preparing for the three major United Nations Conferences in 1994 and 1995. First, that it is essential to make decisions and complete resolutions before the Conference begins, which means that all work is done during the Preparatory Committee meetings (PrepComs). And second, that NGOs must put aside their interests in order to form coalitions and caucuses so that they can effectively lobby government officials and influence the outcome of the Conference. IRMA NEWMARK describes the Child Rights Caucus.

The Child Rights Caucus was formed at the first PrepCom of the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) by NGOs concerned about children's rights. Our goal was to bring together the interests of various NGOs under the framework of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the World Summit for Children (WSC). From January 1994 to January 1995, we have grown from a small informal group of 10 NGOs to a well-organized caucus of more than 60.

Concerned by the absence of significant and relevant reference to children in the WSSD Programme of Action, we drafted and submitted new paragraphs we believed should be included, prepared documents for plenary sessions, and lobbied delegates in the corridors on behalf of children.

As we enter the third and final PrepCom, we have developed our own statement, as well as solicited others from relevant NGO working groups. In the wide range of issues we address — from street children to working children, children affected by war, child soldiers, education, health and survival — we have kept our focus on their direct relationship to the CRC and the issues of the WSSD.

The existence of child soldiers, for example, involves not only an abrogation of rights enumerated in several articles of the CRC, but also bears a direct relationship to poverty, work and social integration, the three primary concerns of the WSSD. Child health and survival, a centrepiece of both the CRC and the WSC Plan of Action, lead to improved family health, reduced family size and improved economic and social well-being.

In addition, as NGOs working in the field, we have fought for more concrete goals and timetables and for greater accountability in the WSSD Programme of Action. We have also recommended the formation of a coordinating body of UN agencies in cooperation with NGOs, to assist countries in the follow-up of their national Plans of Action which we hope will be developed after the WSSD.

As the new kid on the block, we have also learned a great deal about the process of forming a successful caucus. In articulating our positions, we have learned to balance universal human rights with local cultural values and social customs. Among ourselves we have sought common ground and consensus, balancing efficiency with openness that sometimes results in tedious discussion. Most of all, as international NGOs with diverse experience and viewpoints, we have tried to remember that it is our common interest in ensuring the well-being of all children everywhere that holds us together.

While we need to increase our impact on the Programme of Action, we have so far had a variety of positive responses, including the United States and Chilean Permanent Missions to the United Nations, which assured us that child rights will be on the agenda of the WSSD. As we continue our efforts through United Nations Conferences and events this year and beyond, the Child Rights Caucus can be an effective means to further strengthen the public voice within the UN system and to mobilize the essential principles of social organization and democratic participation.

Irma Newmark is Chair of the Child Rights Caucus.

Remembering Jim Grant

By Paul F. McCleary

Those of us who have known and worked with Jim Grant feel a profound loss. The inspiration he embodied will surface in our lives again and again: his sharp intelligence, the clarity of his vision, his boundless energy, but mostly his ability to see everything in a positive light with an assurance that the impossible was always doable. He could enlist the most cynical in a new adventure he had thought up in the middle of the night, but by the next morning was ready to be put into action.

Jim had the extraordinary ability to share his vision with others in such a way that it became their vision. The inspired became the doers and Jim was already moving on to the next dream.

But Jim did not settle for dreams or talk. The annual *State of the World's Children* report became UNICEF's clarion call to the world to do something about the deplorable situation of children in so many places. And only Jim could have envisioned and carried out such remarkable achievements as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the World Summit for Children. But his genius lay as much in his relentless pursuit of concrete practical implementation that gives the most elaborate vision its value.

In my role as President of the NGO Committee on UNICEF, I experienced Jim as an advocate for NGOs, repeatedly going out of his way to make a place for them at whatever the event or table of discussion. At the World Summit for Children he ensured the NGOs a place — against strong opposition, and despite space constraints and tight security. He always recognized that NGOs brought a new dimension to the discussion.

There are the literally millions yet unborn who will not know Jim Grant but whose lives will be enriched because he lived. Truly he is one of the special few who have been able to influence the world for good.

Paul F. McCleary is President, NGO Committee on UNICEF.

NGOs working for child rights

By Aasha Pai

Exploitation of child workers is a grave problem worldwide which hundreds of NGOs are working to eliminate. For the past two years, the Working Group on Exploited Children of the NGO Committee on UNICEF has been seeking to publicize NGO programmes that are designed to reduce or eliminate the harsh conditions, long hours and abuse suffered by millions of working children. Those profiled below are among the many such NGOs working with limited budgets and highly committed volunteers. In addition to providing services, they look for ways to help children take charge of their own lives and break the cycle of poverty that forces them into exploitative working conditions.

Centre of Concern for Child Labour (CCFCL), New Delhi (India)

Promoting child rights and community participation are key strategies used by CCFCL to confront child labour. To prepare children to enter the formal educational system — one of the programme's long-term goals — CCFCL runs informal evening schools for working children in several areas throughout northern India.

In the town of Aligarh, for example, the NGO started an evening school in the slums for children who make locks. In addition to reading and writing, children learn about their rights and participate in skits and puppet shows that depict the problems they face in their daily lives.

Recognizing the children's right to play, CCFCL provides recreation for them, whenever possible. The staff also works closely with the children's parents, employers, social workers, doctors, lawyers and local political leaders.

For the past three years, CCFCL's programmes have provided non-formal education and on-site health check-ups to over 1,200 children. In addition, more than 200 children have been able to leave hazardous occupations and are now attending formal schools.

Translating this grass-roots experience into effective advocacy, CCFCL disseminates information on child labour to Members of Parliament and pressures political parties to take a stand against child labour. CCFCL has also formed an NGO network (the Child Labour Action Network), held three national-level consultations on child labour and continues to disseminate documentation on exploited working children.

Brothers of St. Charles Lwanga, Nairobi (Kenya)

Responding to the growing number of children in Nairobi who work on the streets (currently estimated at 30,000), the NGO, Brothers of St. Charles Lwanga, has opened a rehabilitation centre that provides basic skills and technical training. In three years, the NGO has reached over 250 children.

Parental involvement plays a critical role in the process of enabling children to eventually return and stay home. The children live at the rescue centres while their parents are traced. When parents are found, they are counselled and helped to support their children as productive family members. Once children return home, parental counselling continues and children continue to attend informal education classes, receive medical care and also counselling at the centre.

To further encourage responsibility and involvement among parents, the NGO offers soft loans to cover school fees and extends credit to families who wish to start small businesses.

Concerned for Working Children (CWC), Bangalore (India)

CWC strongly believes that children must participate in the decision-making processes that affect their lives. In addition to literacy classes, CWC teaches working children about their political, economic and sociocultural environment. By forming *sanghas* or associations, with the help of CWC, working children learn to advocate for their own needs.

Nearly 1,000 children are assisted by CWC's urban programme, 'Ankur', through its outreach and shelter projects, which combine advocacy work with vocational training. In the rural programme, 'Gramashrama', approximately 5,000 children are assisted in nearly 60 villages.

Working children from both the Ankur and Gramashrama programmes, with assistance from CWC, have formed 'Bhima Sanghas' or community groups, enabling them to demand and obtain better conditions. Most importantly, however, the organizations foster a sense of self-confidence and value in children who are accustomed to being exploited by inhumane conditions.

While the programme is controversial and criticized by some for legitimizing child labour, the NGO believes that child labour unions can serve as important mechanisms for eliminating hazardous conditions for children in the immediate future.

UNICEF/Shahan

A child worker hammers out steel drums on a Kabul street in Afghanistan.

If you would like to contact these NGOs or know of any NGOs with notable programmes for working children, please contact Tom Kennedy, Chair, NGO Committee on UNICEF, Working Group on Exploited Children, c/o UNICEF House (H-6F), New York, NY 10017, USA. Tel: 212/326-7304; fax: 212/326-7260.

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Resolving conflict and accepting differences

By Sarah Goulding and Mardia Potter

> *"Our strategies for action encompass the immediate medium and long-term. Our priority is for words to be translated into action. We have a vision of a world without the factors of economic injustice and dire social and individual needs; a world where all live in a spirit of mutual respect, cooperation, tolerance, peace and justice. May you remember our words and their strength and through them understand our commitment and our energy to act."*

These concluding words of the Cairo Youth Declaration reflect the spirit and atmosphere of the International NGO Youth Consultation on Population and Development, held in Cairo (31 August to 4 September 1994) during the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). Organized by 12 international NGOs, the Consultation brought together over 100 young people from 60 countries.

In addition to attending the four plenary sessions on human rights, reproductive health, sustainable development and partnership, we spent four to five hours each day in small working groups, expressing our concerns and sharing our perspectives on each of the issues raised in the plenaries. In these groups we also identified strategies for change and introduced them to the ICPD Programme of Action. The Cairo Youth Declaration was the synthesis of those ideas.

The Consultation was both informative and stimulating — an exciting dialogue among young people about the real issues that affect their lives. Perspectives ranged from the very personal to the global and everything in between. Working group discussion provided an opportunity for participants to share ideas, feelings and experiences in a safe and supportive environment.

A young community health worker from Senegal shared his frustration at being unable to prevent his family from practising genital mutilation on his younger sister, despite their awareness of its harmful physical and psychological effects. Young people from throughout the developing world expressed their collective anger at the international economic order, which blocks their countries' progress, while youth from the North criticized their own governments for not doing enough to promote peace and development.

Such a diverse and vocal group of participants produced confrontation and debate, yet it was the similarity of perspectives and solutions that came through most consistently. In one group, where North and South economic injustice was a major concern, participants from the South argued that their countries had been made poor by Northern control of commodity prices. At the same time, the working group came to a consensus that Northern donors should pay close attention to local conditions and needs, and that donors had a major role in stimulating governments and communities to rethink options and ways of managing change.

Reproductive health was certainly the thorniest issue of the Consultation and the ICPD itself, and it was in these discussions that the most deep-seated cultural and religious differences emerged. Many of the more conservative Muslim and Christian youth were unable to accept the premise that young people need sexual and reproductive health services or education. Some were shocked by peers from Africa, Europe and Latin America who reported high levels of sexual activity among youth as young as age 10. In their view, such information was unnecessary and could even encourage promiscuity.

However, we found common ground in our conviction that young people do need basic reproductive health education. For example, many girls who are not adequately prepared for their first menstruation become terrified when they find themselves bleeding. We also agreed that when the need is clear, sexual and reproductive health education and services should not be withheld. The Consultation produced such a strong feeling of cohesiveness and commitment that we began to invent ways to stay in contact and to build networks so we could continue to advocate on youth issues and share programme strategies.

Many of the young people remained to participate in the ICPD. While this was a valuable experience, we were unable to influence the outcomes of the larger Conference, specifically decisions about adolescent access to sexual and reproductive health information and services — one of the most important and controversial issues of the Conference. Instead, the debate was dominated by adult policy makers and NGO leaders who were often far removed from the realities of adolescents. Few people came to hear our views on youth issues and we found, much like at home, that we were not full participants in the dialogue about our future.

In the end, we took home a very important lesson — that as youth, we must learn how to lobby more effectively so that we can make our voices heard and truly influence the polices that impact our lives.

Sarah Goulding and Mardia Potter, representing the YWCA in Australia and Liberia respectively, are interns with the World YWCA in Geneva.

RESOURCES

UNICEF Publications

Available from UNICEF, 3 UN Plaza, RPPL DH-49B, New York, NY 10017, USA.

Available in English unless otherwise noted.

The 20/20 Initiative: Achieving universal access to basic social services for sustainable human development. This 18-page booklet was prepared jointly by UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO for the third Preparatory Committee of the World Summit for Social Development meeting in New York. The booklet is accompanied by a brochure, '20/20: Breaking the poverty cycle'. Also available in French and Spanish.

Profiles in success: People's progress in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Reports on how significant gains in social development were made over the last 30 years in 10 countries (Barbados, Botswana, Costa Rica, Cuba, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe), plus the state of Kerala in southern India. February 1995. Also available in French and Spanish.

Education for Development: A Teacher's Resource for Global Learning, by Susan Fountain. Published by Hodder & Stoughton (London), in conjunction with UNICEF. The book suggests participatory activities for teachers and students that explore global issues and highlights links to local action. Addressed to teachers of students from 7 to 18 years of age. 320 p., c. £16.99 net.

Women and Gender in Countries in Transition: A UNICEF perspective. An assessment of the situation of women in Central and Eastern Europe based on UNICEF country reports, National Committee reports, situation analyses of women and children, UNICEF policy and country programme papers and contributions from other organizations of the United Nations system. Published by the Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe, Commonwealth of Independent States and Baltic States. October 1994. 147 p.

Gender and Basic Education in International Development Cooperation, by Nelly P. Stromquist. This working paper, commissioned by UNICEF and the Swedish International Development Authority, describes and analyses the work being done by international development agencies in the area of basic education for women.

Action for Children Affected by AIDS: Programme profiles and lessons learned, by WHO and UNICEF. A survey of some of the programmes for AIDS-affected children in the Dominican Republic, Kenya, Rwanda, Thailand, Uganda, the United Kingdom and Zambia. US$14.95, 119 p.

A Vision for Children: Social Mobilization in East Asia and the Pacific. A report on the first Regional Social Mobilization Workshop organized for UNICEF field offices in East Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok (Thailand) on 29 August to 3 September 1994. The workshop examined ways to work towards a vision for children by the year 2000 and beyond.

The following speeches and statements have published as individual brochures.

Day of the African Child: Speeches by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu and former UNICEF Executive Director James P. Grant, delivered before the UN General Assembly in New York and in Soweto to commemorate the Day of the African Child: South Africa, 16 June 1994.

Educating for Mutual Understanding and Tolerance: Statement by James P. Grant, former UNICEF Executive Director, to the International Conference on Education, Geneva, 7 October 1994.

The 'Apartheid of Gender' Must End: Statement by Karin Sham Poo, UNICEF Deputy Executive Director (Operations) at the Economic Commission of Europe High-Level Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women, Vienna, 17 October 1994.

Child Rights: A Central Moral Imperative of Our Time: Statement by James P. Grant, former UNICEF Executive Director, to the Third Committee of the 49th General Assembly of the United Nations, New York, 11 November 1994.

The following publications are available from the UNICEF International Child Development Centre, Spedale degli Innocenti, Piazza SS. Annunziata 12, 50122 Florence, Italy. Fax: 39/55 244 817.

Tax Policy and Equity in Asia: The Experience of the 1990s, by Andrea Manuelli. A report on a study conducted by the ICDC on fiscal policy and the poor. Occasional Paper Series No. 42.

Education Rights and Minorities. Edited by the Minority Rights Group. An important resource booklet for anyone interested in minority rights. It includes case studies from around the world on minorities' right to education. May 1994. 38 p.

Crisis in Mortality, Health and Nutrition. Details the challenges facing several Eastern European societies making the transition from socialism to democracy and from command to market economies. The report warns that a health and mortality crisis in many of the countries surveyed is eroding social stability and could threaten the process of political and economic reform. It is the second in a series of reports produced by UNICEF monitoring public policy and social conditions in nine countries of Eastern Europe: Albania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia and Ukraine.

Other Publications

Street and Working Children — A Guide to Planning, by Judith Ennew. Published by Save the Children Fund. A comprehensive resource for field workers and project managers interested in improving the planning process. Available from Save the Children Publication Sales, 17 Grove Lane, London SE5 8RD, UK.

Family: Rights and responsibilities — Review of principal international texts, by Jordi Cots. Published by the International Catholic Child Bureau (ICCB) as a contribution to the International Year of the Family. An analysis of the instruments and recommendations of the United Nations and the Council of Europe. ICCB, Collection Serving Children, Geneva 1994. 153 p. Also available in French and Spanish. SFr. 20. For copies, contact ICCB General Secretariat, 63, rue de Lausanne, CH — 1202 Geneva, Switzerland.

Midwives Without Training: Practices and Beliefs of Traditional Birth Attendants in Africa, Asia and Latin America, by Yvonne Lefèber, 1994. Published by Van Gorcum. Compares practices and beliefs of traditional birth attendants in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The book concludes with suggestions for training TBAs and for incorporating them into health policy. Van Gorcum & Comp. B.V. P.O. Box 43, 9400 AA Assen, the Netherlands. 204 p. US$25.

UNICEF Videos

Audiovisual materials are available from UNICEF offices and National Committees. (Check with your local office for catalogues.)

Rights of Passage: Four Stories of Survival. 30 minutes. Presents the stories of four girls and their coming of age in Burkina Faso, India, Jamaica and Nicaragua. In English only.

The Children's News. 30 minutes. Looks at how the world's governments are responding to UNICEF's call to ratify and implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Presented as a 'video newspaper', it charts the progress of global ratification since 1990 and focuses on three countries that are taking steps to implement the Convention — Bolivia, Norway and Thailand. Also available in French and Spanish.

Tomorrow We Will Finish. 26 minutes. The stories portrayed in this video are based on cases compiled by 'Child Workers in Nepal'. In English only.

Towards 2000. 30 minutes. Documents the first 50 years of UNICEF's work to improve the lives of children throughout the world, particularly in the areas of education, health care and psychological counselling of the young victims of war.

UNICEF Haiti: Children at the Crossroads. Shows the current situation of children in Haiti. Produced by the US Committee for UNICEF. Contact: US Committee for UNICEF, 333 E. 38th St., New York, N.Y. 10016, USA. Fax: 1212 779 1679.

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